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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Trade Union Head Addresses Labor Conference

LD1906175690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1630 GMT 19 Jun 90

(Text] Geneva, Jun 19 (KUNA)—The secetary general of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions (ICATU), Husayn Djemam, Tuesday pointed out the threats of the imperialist system which imposes on Arab countries an extremist, partial position thus strengthening one party and weakening another.

Addressing the International Labour Conference (ILC), Djemam said that this is being done to prevent Arab countries from gaining mastery over science and technology and reaching a level of technological progress which would enable them to obtain the means of defence necessary to face aggressors.

'We denounce the threats of the United States against Syria, Iraq, Libya, and Lebanon,' Djemam stressed.

Djemam also expressed deep concern for the future of Arab workers who have immigrated to Europe, in particular in light of the new tendencies which have arisen in view of the European single market and recent talks which have made immigrants the victims of a specific economic and social situation.

He observed that this should not create practices of discrimination with regard to immigrant workers which would increase feelings of racism and xenophobia towards them.

Moreover, Djemam addressed the increasing problem of trade union rights and freedoms, which he noted, has become a problem in today's world because of increasing violations of those rights in various parts of the world.

The ICATU representative called upon the international labour office to prepare a report on this subject which would be discussed at the next session.

Further, Djemam said that the liberation of Nelson Mandela has triggered considerable hope that the hateful system of apartheid will be put to an end shortly and he called upon countries to increase their support to the African people and to help them in their struggle until this hateful system is abolished.

Islamic Affairs

OIC Discusses 'Massacres' of Liberian Muslims

AB1906202890 Paris AFP in French 1919 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Riyadh, 19 Jun (AFP)—The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) today spoke of "massacres" recently perpetrated against Muslims in Liberia and appealed to the Liberian authorities to put an end to the "violence directed against Muslims."

In a communique reaching AFP, the OIC asserts that these "criminal massacres and exactions, which have forced several Muslims to leave their villages and property...seem to be part of a deliberate plan against Islam and Muslims."

According to the terms of the communique: The OIC hopes that peace will return rapidly to Liberia and appeals to the various parties concerned to respect human life particularly that of the persecuted Muslim population.

(The six-month conflict between the Liberian Government and rebels has claimed several thousands of victims, while more than 150,000 Liberians have migrated to Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Sierra Leone.)

Palestinian Affairs

Israeli Retaliatory Operation Said Imminent

JN1906151890 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 19 Jun 90 p 1

[By Muhammad Haqqi]

[Text] Washington—AL-ANBA'—Jewish American sources close to the Israeli military establishment have said that Israel will carry out a military act in the next few days in retaliation for the Palestinian seaborne attack on the Tel Aviv shore on 30 May. The sources said that Israel has three choices: attacking a target in Libya, where the mother ship that carried the fedayeen boats originated; carrying out an operation against Palestinian headquarters in Hammam al-Shatt near Tunis; or targeting the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Front, which is responsible for the attack, in Baghdad.

Other sources, however, expect Israel to choose a place that does not immediately come to mind, such as one of the two parts of Yemen, and to announce that it attacked Palestinian targets. The sources added that Israel will carry out this attack after it becomes possible for it to acquire a base on Ethiopian territory from which to launch the attack, and when it can guarantee that it will not sustain human losses, thus giving the appearance that Israel has a long arm that can reach any Arab country—in order to achieve a large-scale world propaganda coup from this act.

'Abd-Rabbuh on PLF Operation, U.S. Policy

JN1906163690 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 19 Jun 90 p 22

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] A senior Palestinian source has affirmed that it is not possible to reopen the file of the so-called beach operation carried out by a group affiliated with the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] under the leadership of Muhammad 'Abbas, known as Abu-al-'Abbas.

In an exclusive interview with AL-ANBA', Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, added that the subject is closed, and that the PLO has defined its stand on it. He expressed his opinion that there is an ongoing U.S. attempt to turn this issue into a continuous blackmail of Palestinians by imposing impossible conditions which the United States knows to be unacceptable.

'Abd-Rabbuh wondered whether, in so doing, the Americans are seeking to continue their hue and cry about the operation in order to cover up U.S. policy, which is based on a view of the Israeli stand as the ceiling of political activity on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. He called on Arab countries to discard any illusions concerning the intentions of the U.S. Administration, and to start implementing the Baghdad summit resolutions.

The Palestinian official said he believes matters will become more complicated, and that war and confrontation in the region is likely. Therefore, the Arabs are asked to prepare for this possibility. This will reveal the extent of the Arab countries' serious commitment to the resolutions made recently by their leaders, and show whether the fate of such resolutions will be the same as previous ones.

The PLO official said the Palestinians are facing the United States in the same way they are facing Israeli plans and schemes—primarily the attempt to smother the intifadah by using new and more violent economic and military methods.

'Abd-Rabbuh said the new [Israeli] Government has not hidden its intentions. This, he added, puts the Arabs to a real test of power, the basis of which will determine whether the U.S. Administration will tighten its grip on the region and impose its conditions.

Regarding U.S. hints that the White House might abandon the Middle East issue, 'Abd-Rabbuh said this is not true, and that the United States will not abandon its political role in the region. The truth is that this position, which was declared by Baker, gives the Shamir government sufficient time and space to implement its schemes against the intifadah and to threaten Arab countries.

'Abd-Rabbuh disclosed that the PLO proposed the idea of conducting a political discussion at the Security Council since the convocation of an international conference is the only way to advance the political process.

According to 'Abd-Rabbuh, what was said by the head of U.S. diplomacy implicitly recognizes the failure of Washington's unilateral role. This reaffirms the need for the involvement of the United Nations and the Security Council.

He added that the policy adopted by the Israeli Government through its unequivocal rejection of peace initiatives should not lead the PLO to fall into the trap of abandoning its political approach. On the contrary, adhering to the peace initiative at this stage helps rally more forces to isolate the new Israeli government.

He denied the Palestinian leadership is confused by Israel's exaggeration about its capabilities to crush the intifadah and to put things back the way they were before 9 December 1987 by striking at the intifadah economically and militarily. He pointed out, however, that Israeli schemes should not be underestimated. He asserted that the PLO has the ability to defeat these schemes by enhancing the role of popular participation in the intifadah, providing more support for national institutions and forces, expecting the worst possibilities, and urging democratic forces inside Israel to rise to the level of direct political confrontation with the new party government.

All these factors, he added, demand Arab action based on the Baghdad summit resolutions and the importance of supplying the intifadah with its financial and political needs. He pointed out that the PLO has called for a meeting of the nine-man committee under the chairmanship of Morocco, and for speeding up the meeting of the Arab ministers of finance and economy in line with the summit's resolution.

According to the Palestinian official, the range of Arab reconciliation has to be expanded in order to secure the participation of Syria and other Arab countries in the entire process. This can be done by approaching Europe and the Soviet Union, and by more firmly addressing the United States and its interests in the region.

Editorial Welcomes Baker Remarks on Israel

PM1806153890 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jun 90 p 13

[Editorial: "U.S. Warning to Israel"]

[Text] For the first time since the cooling of U.S.-Israeli relations occured as a result of the Likud Bloc's extremist stances, a leading U.S. official has declared Israel responsible for obstructing the attainment of peace in the Middle East.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker emphasized before the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee U.S. concern about the situation in the Middle East region. He said that the despair of the parties concerned is increasing as a result of the failure to reactivate the peace process.

Baker blamed Israel because it repeatedly has refused to start a dialogue with the Palestinians. He said that if such a dialogue had been started we would not have experienced the present situation.

For the first time in the history of U.S.-Israeli relations, a prominent U.S. official's anger at Israel's attitudes has reached the point where he says: The White House's telephone number is well known; when the Israelis are serious about the peace process they can contact us.

The U.S. secretary of state's remarks very clearly mean that the developments which the region has recently witnessed—especially in occupied Palestine—warn not only of an undermining of the efforts to achieve peace, but also of the outbreak of another war.

This is because the government formed by Yitzhaq Shamir, which includes the most fanatical extremists, has revealed its aggressive objectives by continuing to build settlements, settling Soviet Jewish emigres in the West Bank, and refusing to discuss the exchange of any occupied land for peace.

This means that the U.S. efforts to establish a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and to remove any obstacles in the way of achieving peace are threatened with failure as a result of the policy of intransigence, domination, and terror pursued by Shamir and his comrades in the Likud.

Doubtless the U.S. response to the Israeli intransigence will not stop at expressions of anger, reproach, rebuke, and warning. This is because Baker's statement emphasizes Washington's feeling that the time has come to take a firm and frank position toward the Israeli policy based on defiance and provocation which, if continues, would destroy the last hope of reaching a just peace in the Middle East region.

'Arafat Seeks Support of Nonaligned Movement

NC1506203390 Paris AFP in English 1301 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Tunis], June 15 (AFP)—PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat has called on the Non-Aligned Movement to back a Palestinian request for an extraordinary U.N. General Assembly session on the Israeli-occupied territories, the Palestinian WAFA news agency reported Friday.

In a message to the movement's president—who is also president of Yugoslavia—Borisav Jovic, Mr. 'Arafat said his request came after the U.N. Security Council failed to take a decision which would improve the situation in the territories.

He urged Mr. Jovic to act "in a bid to assure the protection of the Palestinian population from Israeli crimes."

Mr. 'Arafat also warned that the situation threatened to explode following the formation this week of a new right-wing "war government" in Israel headed by Likud bloc leader Yitzhaq Shamir.

The acting president of the Arab group at the United Nations said Wednesday that it was the responsibility of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to investigate any matter which could endanger international security.

The acting president of the group, Tunisian Ambassador Ahmed Ghezal, said the mission which should begin next week would be aimed at protecting the Palestinian people.

He also said the Arab group had not yet decided whether to convene a special session of the General Assembly on the issue of the occupied territories.

The remarks came after Mr. Perez de Cuellar decided to send his principal adviser for the Middle East Jean-Claude Aimee to the territories.

Earlier this month the United States vetoed a resolution in the Security Council to send observers to monitor unrest in the occupied territories.

Mr. 'Arafat meanwhile said the veto can only be considered as "support and encouragement of the occupation and a blow to the peace process," adding that Washington was conducting "an ignoble campaign against the PLO."

PLO Officials on Shamir's 'War Government'

PM1506114790 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 12 Jun 90 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Al-Surani and Subayh Tell 'UKAZ: Shamir Heads a War Government, and Intifadah Is the Solution"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, 'UKAZ Bureau—The cabinet formation agreed in Israel has provoked vehement reactions in Arab, Palestinian, and Egyptian political circles. The formation serves to emphasize Israel's determination to pursue the policy of violence, of facilitating immigration to Israel, and of proceeding toward confronting the Palestinian intifadah with the most violent and the bloodiest of means. 'UKAZ has explored the views of some Palestinian leaders in Cairo on the new Israeli Government.

PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani told 'UKAZ: I have emphasized in the past that there is no difference between Shamir and Peres. Without a doubt the arrival of this government emphasizes Israel's and the Israeli occupation forces' desire to continue obstructing the peace march, seeking to destroy the intifadah, and stepping up violence in the occupied territories. There will be no backtracking from the peace policy declared by the PLO. But the peace offered by the PLO is being confronted by Israeli arrogance and U.S. intransigence in accusing the Palestinians of terrorism and of refusing to confront the Israeli terrorist acts against the unarmed sons of our people in the occupied territories.

Therefore we believe that the arrival of this government is a continuation of the same approach. The solution lies in the existence of a unified Arab strategy through which we can speak about advancing the peace process. But the significance of the Shamir government's accession is that it will embark on implementing certain tasks under an agreement between it and the political forces which have allied with it, including the settlement of the new emigres. Sharon has been appointed to carry out this task, to perpetuate the occupation of the Arab territories, and to try to destroy the Palestinian intifadah.

Undoubtedly, the tasks which the Shamir government has emerged to carry out reflect the meaning of its formation.

Palestine National Council Secretary Muhammad Subayh told 'UKAZ: Without doubt the selection of the Israeli Government in such a manner confirms the

aggressive intentions of the Israeli occupation authorities—something which has become clear. This is happening while the PLO continues to emphasize its commitment and adherence to the peaceful approach. However, this commitment comes while Israel—by its agreement to the formation of such a government—continues to emphasize its rejection of peace and refusal to seek justice and stability in the region or to respond to all the international resolutions and charters which uphold the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their independent state in Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital.

Israel's pursuit of that approach and the arrival of this hard-line and extremist government will cause the situation in the occupied territories and the region to explode and will undermine the efforts being made for the sake of peace. International forces and the Arab states must therefore exert the strongest possible pressure on Israel.

Furthermore, the Palestinian intifadah must be escalated to confront the Israeli acts of violence and terror.

The arrival of the hard-line Shamir government exposes the Israeli position of rejecting peace. We cannot confirm, however, that this government will last long. Peace supporters inside Israel and peace-loving forces in the world are on the increase—and that goes against what this government, which constitutes a war government, has come to do. [passage omitted]

Abu-Sharif Affirms Peace Process, Resistance

PM2006090090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jun 90 p 5

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat's Adviser Says Before Leaving Canada: We Hold U.S. Administration Responsible For Israeli Threat To Peace"]

[Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has left Canada after a visit during which he met with Canadian Foreign Ministry officials and leaders of the Jewish community in Canada.

Before leaving, Bassam Abu-Sharif made the following statement: I told all the states concerned about finding a just political solution in the Middle East that the PLO has met all the conditions necessary for finding a just political solution and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. And that the PLO will continue its efforts to establish peace. At the same time, however, it emphasizes to the world public and the states concerned about finding a solution and achieving peace in the Middle East that, unless pressures are exerted on Israel to withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territory, and unless Israel acknowledges the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, peace will remain very, very remote.

The Middle East will not wait long, and the U.S. Government has a special responsibility in this regard. It must take practical and urgent steps to protect the Palestinian people from Israel's organized terror against them and to start the process of ending the occupation.

We draw the world's attention to the expansionist and repressive operations planned by Israel against the Palestinian people and reemphasize that we will continue to resist the occupation right to the end.

Shamir and his government are mistaken if they think that the Palestinians lack any of the means of resistance or that they cannot use such means when they choose to do so. We say to the world that we are ready to conclude a peace treaty, but we are always ready and prepared to defend our rights and peace using every available means.

The recent Arab summit resolutions keep the door wide open for using Arab energies to achieve this aim. We have informed the U.S. Administration in detail of the seriousness of the situation in the Middle East and have held it responsible for the situation. This is because Israel is planning large-scale assassination operations and irresponsible military operations in South Lebanon and Jordan. Such actions, which complement Israel's rejection of peace plans, would cause only disasters in the Middle East.

We urge President Bush and Mr. Baker to take the necessary decisions to salvage the situation in the Middle East. And we inform them that we will not cease to resist the occupation. We also add that we will step up our resistance against the occupation using every available means.

OPEC Affairs

Kuwaiti Official Receives OPEC Delegation

LD1906183390 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] The deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, has met with a delegation representing ambassadors of OPEC member states. An authoritative source at the foreign ministry has declared that the delegation, which included the ambassadors of Algeria, Indonesia, and Nigeria and the Venezuelan charge d'affaires, had discussed with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad the coordination efforts concerning the tour which a delegation of oil ministers representing these states is planning to undertake to the OPEC member states during the month of August.

The source added that the aim behind this tour is to pave the way for and prepare for the holding of a summit of the 13 OPEC member states. The source went on to say that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad had welcomed this tour.

Egypt

MENA Says UPI Misquotes Report on Husayn Threat

NC1906150290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1412 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—Yesterday UPI attributed to MENA a statement by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to the effect that he will use poisonous gases against Israel in the event it attacks Iraq or any Arab country. MENA declares that the report it transmitted on this topic made no mention whatsoever of the use of poisonous gases. The text of the MENA report on this issue was as follows: "Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has stressed that his country will retaliate strongly and strike with all the weapons at its disposal in the event of an act of aggression against Iraq or any Arab country, even Syria or Mauritania." It has been noticed that the UPI headline and preamble focused on the theme of poisonous gases, but this was not mentioned in the body of the item.

U.S. Asked To Approve West Bank Recommendations

JN1906134790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Informed sources at the Egyption Foreign Ministry said that Egypt has held diplomatic contacts with the U.S. State Department asking Washington to approve the recommendations included in the report by the international envoy to the occupied territories, Jean-Claude Aime. It also asked that the U.S. Administration approve the measures outlined in the report to protect Palestinians in these territories.

During these contacts, Egypt expressed hope that the international envoy's visit will result in an international action that will guarantee a halt to the policy of violence in the occupied territories and launch the peace process in the region.

Last Sunday evening, Cairo contacted the U.S. Administration to ask it to hold immediate negotiations with the Israelis to prepare for the arrival of the international envoy and prevent any hindrances that might deter him from doing his duty properly.

On the other hand, I have learned that Cairo will now hold important negotiations with the purpose of convening a meeting between the international envoy and leaders from the PLO during Aime's current tour. Egypt is seeking to hold the meeting in Cairo or any other Arab capital.

Government Urges 'Positive Steps' From Israelis

NC2006051190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0335 GMT 20 Jun 90

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR reports that Egypt has told the new Israeli Government that swift and positive steps must be taken to achieve peace in the Middle East. The paper adds that Egypt has underlined the need to expedite the initiation of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue as a first step on the road to peace. Egypt also demanded that Israel adopt confidence-building measures and stop the occupation troops' oppressive actions against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territries.

First Arab Industrial Conference Takes Place

Syrian Minister Arrives

NC1906110790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—Syrian Industry Minister Antoine Jubran arrived here today to attend the first ministerial conference of the Arab Organization for Industrial Development. Delegations representing 22 Arab countries will take part in the conference, which will open in Cairo tomorrow.

Upon his arrival, the Syrian minister said he will hold talks during the visit with Industry Minister Engineer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, who received him at the airport, on ways of strengthening industrial cooperation between the two countries and as part of a general inter-Arab integration.

During the two-day conference, the Arab delegates will discuss Arab industrial strategy in the future, topics related to expanding industrial cooperation among Arab states, and use of Arab expertise in formulating integrated industrial development.

Sidqi Opens First Session

NC2006110290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi today opened the first session of the ministerial council of the Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining, which will hold a two-day conference in Cairo under the auspices of President Husni Mubarak. The opening session was attended by Arab industry ministers; Hatim 'Abd-al-Rashid, the organization's secretary general; Arab ambassadors in Cairo; and a large number of Arab experts in the fields of industry and economic development.

In his speech to the session, Dr. Sidqi urged Arab countries to pay greater attention to coordination and integration, particularly in the fields of economy and technology, in order to face the international challenges posed by economic integration in Western Europe, the Far East, and North America, and economic liberalization in East Europe. He underlined the need to devise Arab technology that can be applied in various spheres.

Dr. Sidqi emphasized that it is necessary to assess the possible effects of these challenges on the Arab world,

noting that there is an urgent need for greater Arab political determination to strengthen integration and coordination. He pointed out that the Arab states signed the Arab common market agreement before the Europeans signed the Rome agreement establishing the EEC. However, European states will achieve almost complete unity by 1992, while the Arabs have achieved nothing in this respect, he added.

Dr. Sidqi expressed his regret that coordination and integration remain mere slogans while economic disunity and separation prevail among Arab states. He emphasized that only the establishment of a form of coordination and integration will enable the Arabs to muster the economic and political strength to face challenges.

Concluding his speech, the prime minister said there had been several positive signs in the past five years, especially the emergence of Arab economic groupings in the form of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union. Such groupings can serve comprehensive inter-Arab economic and industrial cooperation. [passage omitted]

Source Denies Air Sinai Flies Jewish Immigrants

NC1906142490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1333 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry has denied reports that the Air Sinai Company is transporting Soviet Jews to Israel through Egyptian airspace. In a statement today, the source affirmed that these reports published by party newspapers, particularly AL-SHA'B in today's issue, are groundless. He pointed out that Egypt has no interest in doing this.

Paper on Seriousness of Israeli War Threats

JN1906073790 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Jun 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Suspect Manifestations"]

[Text] With the formation of the extremist government under Shamir, which signals a "victory" on the internal front that encourages Shamir's supporters and followers to warn internal and external rivals, it is natural that the voices of war are once again being heard in Israel.

However, talk of war by military officials is different from such talk by civilians. If politicians warn of war—like what the Likud leaders and their supporters in various allied parties warned—this would generally be within their party maneuvers and a tactical attempt to arouse the feelings of their support bases and to mobilize them against the "submission" of rivals in other parties. But when military officials warn of war, it is usually more dangerous and serious because it not only reflects a ready "strategy," but also a mentality that favors mischief and relies on it to achieve quick results that cannot be achieved by reluctant and slow political action, or so they believe.

Therefore, Israeli Chief of Staff Dan Shomron's threats to strike at Iraq and Jordan are serious threats, which should prompt immediate preparations by the Arab states to confront them strongly and effectively, given that failure to respond to any strike by Israel will encourage it to carry out further strikes. Subsequent statements by other military officials constitute a greater danger and must be more effectively confronted. This is due to two main reasons. The first is that they come as an "escalation" of former statements by military officials, an assertion of the "inevitability of war," and an unprecedented "expansion" of its scope. The second reason is that they come after the new government authorized the army and asserted that "it places all its capabilities at the army's disposal." It is rare in peacetime for politicians to give absolute authorization to the military to do whatever it wants, whenever it wants, and with whatever capabilities it wants.

It is ridiculous for the Israeli rulers not to expect the Arabs to be on the alert about the seriousness of this trend, or to try to alleviate its effects by meaningless statements on peace efforts, if they believe that this is enough to make the Arabs relax. If the premeditated intentions are not exposed by attitudes, they must be exposed by practices. The Israeli public opinion knows that the new extremist cabinet wants, as itself declares, to settle millions of new immigrants, a goal that cannot be achieved unless the occupied territories are included. This time, the talk by politicians and military officials about a war is a real joint effort to mobilize citizens for forthcoming operations that protect expansion and maintain its base.

Libya

JANA Editor on Al-Qadhdafi Weapons Remarks

LD1906172890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1537 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Jun (JANA)—The Zionist enemy, with U.S. and Western support, has launched a misleading campaign against the Great Jamahiriyah by editing the brother leader of the revolution's talk with university students and teaching staff at Libyan Arab universities.

On this subject, JANA international affairs editor said that to give the truth its due and to make matters right, we will state what the brother leader said in his talk with university students and teaching staff. The brother leader stressed that the United States has prevented Libyan students from studying space and atoms, that the United States is hostile to Arabs and Libyans and is preventing them from studying sciences and reaching [word indistinct] technology, and that the United States does not want to help developing nations to transfer

technology and learn modern sciences. In the same context, the brother leader stressed that the Israelis have manufactured more than one nuclear missile aimed at every Arab town and that the United States is erecting [tunsibul] satellites above our heads and these are making us agitated.

That is what the brother leader stressed, and there was no indication in that talk about any atomic bombs or missiles, which confirms again that in their hostile campaign the Zionists are following their customary path of misleading public opinion by fabricating lies against the libertarian and humanitarian policy of the Great Jamahiriyah.

On this occasion, we would like to mention a part of the statement made by the brother leader of the revolution last March. Regarding mass destruction weapons, the brother leader said that if Libya could manufacture them, it would not hesitate in doing so and would not keep it a secret, because, regrettably, there is no law that prevents any state from producing these weapons. However, Libya on its own and with its own efforts would need another 20 years to produce a chemical bomb.

The JANA international affairs editor noted that Arabs will be able to obtain these weapons if they achieve unity and cooperate collectively to produce them and that this is an important matter because the Great Jamahiriyah is not capable of manufacturing mass destruction weapons on its own but only within the unity of the Arab nation, unity of Arab effort, and the unity of Arab will.

At the end of his remarks on the Zionist campaign against the Great Jamahiriyah, the editor stressed that whatever the Zionists do their misleading attempts will not succeed and their fate will be the same as the previous ones.

Israeli Warplane Movements Observed

LD2006000490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2120 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Jun (JANA)—JANA has learned that the Libyan Arab reconnaissance means have observed the movement of squadrons of Zionist warplanes which had taken off from one of the Zionist bases near occupied Tel Aviv heading toward the U.S. bases in southern Europe, and this is in order to prepare for a hostile action against one of the Arab countries in North Africa.

The Libyan Arab reconnaissance means expect the Zionist military air force to begin its aggression soon.

Tripoli-Aden Air Traffic Resumes

LD1906172690 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1437 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, 19 June (JANA)—Within the framework of strengthening brotherly relations between the sons of the same Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and the Yemeni Republic, an agreement has been reached between the People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport in the Great Jamahiriyah and the Ministry of Communications in the Yemen Arab Republic [name as received] to resume the air route linking Aden and Tripoli via Cairo, and vice versa.

The agreement stipulates that the air route would become operational beginning Saturday, 23 June, and [words indistinct] office of the Yemen Airlines in the offices of the Libyan Arab Airlines at the Grand Hotel, Tripoli. [passage omitted]

Sudan

RCC Official's Foreign Tour Postponed

EA2006082490 Khartoum SUNA in English 0944 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Khartoum, 17 June (SUNA)—The tour of the member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) and chairman of the Political Committee, Brig 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan to Egypt, U.A.E. and Britain, was postponed to a later date. The tour was originally scheduled to start yesterday.

Trade Agreement Signed With Egypt

EA2006081490 Khartoum SUNA in English 1006 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Khartoum, 17 June (SUNA)—The Sudanese-Egyptian talks on their joint trade protocol signed in September 1989, were concluded yesterday by the signing of a number of trade agreements.

The agreements included a four million pound agreement for the supply to Sudan by Egypt of improved seeds and school books. Agreement was also reached on increasing the price of a Sudanese camel to [word indistinct] Egyptian pounds, from 700 pounds. The two sides furthermore agreed to reactivate trade exchanges between them.

Trade Undersecretary Muhammad Nuri Hamid signed for Sudan and his Egyptian counterpart Ahmad Kamil [word indistinct] signed for his country.

Currency Accord Reached With Libyan Bank

EA2006081090 Khartoum SUNA in English 1709 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Jun (SUNA)—Bank of Sudan and Libyan Cenzal Bank have agreed to transfer currencies of Sudanese expatriates in Libya through Sudanese Commercial Bank. The agreement, which was reached in a meeting held yesterday by the Sudanese Expatriate Authority, came within the framework of integration between Sudan and Libya. The meeting alo discussed issues pertinent to expatriate affairs [word indistinct] stressed the necessity of solving them.

Envoy Resigns, Criticizes Government Policy

PM2006093090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jun 90 p 2

[Talhah Jibril report: "Sudan's Ambassador to Morocco Announces His Resignation, Heads for New York"]

[Excerpt] Rabat, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sudanese Ambassador to Morocco 'Abdallah Mahjub submitted to the Sudanese Foreign Ministry his resignation from his post as ambassador yesterday, Monday. He sent an open cable to Khartoum, explaining the reasons for his resignation and criticizing the government's policy.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry had asked Mr. 'Abdallah Mahjub, who has only been on duty in Rabat for five months, to return immediately and definitively to Khartoum, without explaining the reasons for the decision. But some sources have said that the decision to recall Ambassador Mahjub to Khartoum was made following a visit to Morocco by Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the [Sudanese] National Salvation Revolution Command Council and the council's official in charge of foreign relations. Khalifah recently made a tour of the Arab Maghreb region, during which he visited Rabat and held a meeting with members of the Sudanese community there.

Ambassador 'Abdallah Mahjub, who will leave Morocco for New York, where his family lives, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that during Col. Khalifah's visit to Rabat he described as negative Khalifah's position on the criticisms expressed during his meeting with members of the Sudanese community. He added that he expected Khalifah to take action against him immediately after his return to Khartoum. [passage omitted]

Army Claims 410 Rebels Killed in Upper Nile

EA1906204590 Khartoum SUNA in English 1017 GmT 19 Jun 90

[Text] [no dateline as received] [words indistinct] storms outlaws were killed, 1,100 others wounded when the Armed Forces stormed their camp at Faryang area near Rub Kona [near Bentiu] in northern Upper Nile on Saturday (16 June), said a statement by the General Command yesterday.

The statement said that big quantities of different weapons and ammunition were seized by the armed forces in the operation including dozens of submachineguns and a number of artillery pieces.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Urges Councils To Improve Services

LD1506181290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] The political bureau of the Constitutional Democratic Rally met at the Palace of the Republic of Carthage this morning under the chairmanship of Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the party chairman. The meeting assessed the results of the recent municipal elections. The political bureau noted with total satisifaction the good condition in which these elections were held and the discipline and the freedom which prevailed in the choice of the candidates.

The political bureau also expressed its gratitude and appreciation to all the activists for the great efforts they made to bolster the position of the Rally in these elections and to provide the best conditions for these elections with a view to consolidating the democratic process in the country.

The political bureau also thanked the central, regional, and local authorities for ensuring that the elections are held in normal conditions and in the framework of the law.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, for his part, stressed the need for the elected municipal councils to embark immediately on preparing practical programs to increase municipal services and improve the citizens' living conditions in accordance with the pledges they made during the election campaign.

Ennadah Paper Charged With Libel

AL-FAJR Issue Seized

LD1706112190 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] There is some news about fundamentalists in Tunisia: The authorities have ordered the seizure of the latest issue of their weekly AL-FAJR. Listen to Hamadi Djebali, spokesman for this journal. He first explains to us what the Tunisian authorities reproach the paper with:

[Begin recording] [Djebali, in French] Libeling the president of the Republic, and spreading false reports. These charges are in connection with an article under the title: People of the State or State of the People.

[Reporter] And in your view, there is nothing in there of a libelous nature?

[Djebali] Absolutely [word indistinct], it is an article of reflection or ideas, rather than a political one. This is a simple and pure seizure of thought, of the rights of the newspaper.

[Reporter] Therefore, how are you interpreting this seizure? Are you inerpreting this in the light of the elections in Algeria?

[Djebali] This is one interpretation, and the other interpretation is the failure of the municipal elections in Tunisia, which has prompted a tougher and tougher position of the government, which truly goes against more credible political life. This is a step that really saddens us, a detrimental step, above all with regard to events in Algeria, the advent of democracy in the region. This seizure is detrimental to our expectations. [end recording]

Editor To Be Prosecuted

LD1906140190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] In a telephone contact with APS office in Tunis, a source close to the un-recognized Islamic Revival [Ennahdah] Movement, said that Mr. Hamadi Djebali, one of the leaders of the Revival Movement and the editor-in chief of AL-FAJR of the said Movement, has received a notice from the examining magistrate requesting his presence after tomorrow Thursday. A court session will try him on 11 July at the court of first instance in Tunis.

The same source added that the charge laid against Mr. Hamadi Djebali, in his capacity as editor of AL-FAJR, is the instigation of the people to violate the laws of the country, an offense regulated by chapter 44 of the law on journalism.

Bear in mind the fact that the 9th issue of the Movement's paper AL-FAJR was recently censored after publishing an article, it seems, by Shaykh Rachid al-Ghannouchi, entitled: State of the People or People of the State.

Maghreb Foreign Ministers To Meet 23 Jun

LD2006024490 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] In preparation for the second AMU [Arab Maghreb Union] summit, to be held next July in Algeria, the AMU foreign ministers will meet next Saturday [23 June] in Tunis.

The AMU follow-up committee started a series of meetings today to draw up the agenda of the foreign ministers meeting and to assess the activities of the specialized Maghreb basic organizations formed at the first AMU summit.

This ministerial meeting will be followed by a regular session of the AMU Consultative Council.

Western Sahara

Algerian Body Marks Saharan Uprising Anniversary

LD1806110790 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Algiers, 18 Jun (APS)—On 17 June, the 20th anniversary of the uprising of the Saharan people against the Spanish occupation, the Algerian Committee for Solidarity with the Saharan people salutes the Saharan people's armed option, which was decided by the Polisario Front on 20 May 1973, and the victories achieved against Spain before the plotting of the appalling conspiracy of the Madrid tripartite agreement, which divided the Western Sahara between Morocco and Mauritania.

The statement of the Solidarity Committee points out that the people and countries are now aware that solving the regional conflicts has become one of the constituent factors in purging the international situation, and that that solution should be a peaceful one through negotiations between the sides of the conflict, away from any political or military pressure.

The statement adds that the recommendations of the international organizations confirm that the Western Sahara problem is a decolonization problem which should be solved within the framework of giving the Saharan people the unconditional right to self-determination and independence. The statement also stresses the sincerity and strength of the international movement of solidarity with the Saharan cause.

The statement stresses that the Algerian people, who are loyal to the principle of respecting the peoples' right to self-determination, who are aware of the need for peace in the region, and who have continued to show solidarity with the just Saharan cause, are also aware that the establishment of a united and prosperous Greater Arab Maghreb is one of the deepest aspirations of the Maghreb peoples, including the Saharan people, and therefore the Algerian people are aware that that Maghreb will remain incomplete without the participation of one of its integral parts, which is the Saharan people. The Algerian Committee for Solidarity with the Saharan people, which was formed on 25 March 1990, is but one form of this undivided solidarity between our two peoples.

Kuwait

Al-Hasan Defends PLO Policy of 'Armed Struggle'

LD1906173990 Kuwait KUNA in English 1452 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 19 (KUNA) Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Tuesday received a message from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat addressed to His Highness the Amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad.

'Arafat's political advisor Hani al-Hasan handed the message during a meeting with Shaykh Sabah here today.

Al-Hasan told reporters following the meeting that the message deals with the latest developments in the Middle East and the Palestinian uprising, noting that his talks with Shaykh Sabah touched on details of issues of mutual concern.

The Palestinian official stressed the Palestinian people's pressing need of total Arab support, providing the fact that "there is no political Palestinian solution, but an Arab one," describing the Arab political backing as "a major issue for the Palestinian question."

He highlighted Kuwait's political weight on the international arena and major role in the confrontation against the "barbarian" campaign of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir against Jordan and other Arab states.

The Palestinian official hailed the Kuwait financial support to the Palestinian uprising, pointing out that coordination will continue between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Kuwait for the creation of Arab solidarity "which we all deem necessary."

He expressed thanks and appreciation of the Palestinian people toward the Kuwaiti leadership's assistance through the past 25 years for the Palestinian revolution, noting that such support has greatly contributed in strengthening the PLO's economies.

On the proposed meeting of the PLO's Central Committee in Baghdad, Al-Hasan told reporters that it was scheduled immediately after the Israeli hardline government took power, noting that this government has also threatened to retake the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula and cross the Suez Canal.

Shamir can do nothing for peace as he claims, Al-Hasan said, adding that Shamir, being on the top of the Israeli Government, is "a declaration of war."

He called on Arab and Islamic Nations to beware of Shamir's claims that he is ready to negotiate peace with the Palestinians on the basis of the Israeli understanding of self-rule. The PLO is studying how to defeat Shamir in the upcoming war, Al-Hassan stressed.

On the U.S.-PLO dialogue, Al-Hasan said such dialogue (?could) not go on amid continuous threats by the Americans, adding the dialogue is an "important matter" given the important role of the United States in the area after the Soviets (?withdrew from it)

He added that the PLO is seeking new foundations for the future dialogues to insure an active and balanced outcome, stressing that the PLO is capable of saying (?no) to the American Administration.

In response to a question, the Palestinian official said the crisis still exists following the Palestinian seaborne attack on the coasts of Tel Aviv, noting that "we regard armed struggle as the sacred secret 'weapon' in abolishing the Israeli occupation."

"We will not let anyone press us to stop armed struggle against a dirty enemy that kills children before women and men," he underlined, recalling the recent incidents in occupied Gaza strip.

Security Court Acquits Accused Coup Plotters

LD1806101890 Kuwait KUNA in English 0956 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 18 (KUNA)—Four Kuwaiti defendants, accused of instigating the topple of the regime in 1986, were acquitted by the State Security Court Monday.

The four Kuwaiti nationals acquitted by the court are Sayyed Baqer Sayyed Abbas al-Moussawi, Faisal Abdel Hadi al-Mahmeed, Walid Sayyed Redha al-Mazeedi and Abdel Hamid Abdel Kareem al-Saffar. [all names as received]

The court, held under the chairmanship of Counselor Mohammed Abdel Hay al-Bannai [name as received], acquitted the defendants from all 10 counts, while deciding that it was not authorised to try the prime suspect on the two counts of forgery of records.

The State Security Court has opened its hearings in the said cast last May 12.

The state security prosecution had accused the suspects of being part of outlawed groups with a prime aim of overthrowing the present regime, the attempted use and possession of explosives with intent to kill, and possession of firearms and ammunition and smuggling.

Qatar

Paper Cited on PLO Probe of Seaborne Operation

JN1906185590 Manama WAKH in English 1535 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 19 Jun (GNA)—[passage omitted] The Qatari [newspaper] AL-SHARQ said the PLO has launched a probe into whether the seaborne Palestinian attack on the Palestinian coast recently was mounted against civilian or military targets. However, in spite of our due respect for the pressures on the PLO, we still consider it unnecessary to launch a fact-finding mission on the case to respond to Washington or Tel Aviv.

In its editorial, AL-SHARQ said the reason for the attack is represented by every moment experienced by Palestinians inside the occupied territories, and the statement by the terrorist Premier Shamir calling for dissolving the PLO and stopping the intifadah.

The answer to why the attack was launched on the Palestinian coast is also represented in the Israeli plans for expanding prisons and stepping up the destruction of homes, AL-SHARQ said.

Saudi Arabia

Interior Ministry Statement Views Pilgrimage

LD2006052190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Holy Mecca, 20 Jun (SPA)—[passage omitted] The Interior Ministry has noticed that individuals from among the arriving brothers are carrying with them—out of their good intentions, and this is what we believe, God willing, or out of their wish to exploit this noble occasion—books and pictures and leaflets which have political or propagandist or ideological motive, a matter which may have an influence on some or directly harm others—in contravention of the sublime aim of the pilgrimage. Therefore the Ministry—according to its instructions it has—emphasizes that such material is totally banned. The ministry hopes that the opportunity will be provided for the pilgrims to perform their duty without distractions.

While stressing this, the ministry hopes that everyone will abide by this without violation. Any person violating this will be subject to punishment and will be returned to the country from whence he came. Any person found in possession of any banned material, irrespective of its nature, will receive a deterrent punishment, and laws and regulations which are in force in the Kingdom shall be applied without tolerance or leniency. The ministry is responsible for the safety and security of the pilgrims.

King Fahd Interviewed on Regional Relations

PM1906115490 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 14 Jun 90 pp 4-5

[Interview with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud by Chief Editor Hashim 'Abduh Hashim; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Hashim] Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, how do you assess the results of the Baghdad summit conference in the light of the call for firmer stands in the face of the dangers and challenges facing the Arab nation?

[King Fahd] There can be no doubt that more cooperation, consultation, and coordination is required of the leaders of the Arab nation in order to mold a unified Arab stance on all issues.

That is why we attended and participated in the Baghdad summit conference. We did so because we realized the importance of seizing every opportunity to bring this nation together.

Fortunately the Baghdad summit achieved a great deal. We are still looking forward to the attainment of united Arab ranks, and our efforts in this connection are continuing, because for any state to stand outside the framework of unanimity—which has not happened and, God willing, will not happen—would be a disservice to our joint efforts to contain and face the dangers rationally and wisely.

[Hashim] Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, despite the clarity of the summit resolutions some have spoken of extensive differences among Arab leaders. You—may God protect you—made considerable efforts to contain these differences and facilitate the emergence of a common Arab viewpoint.

[King Fahd] I have often said that differences of opinion between any two parties should not prevent ultimate agreement on common ground. Differences of opinion are not a bad thing, on the contrary. The first aim of meetings held at this level is to bring viewpoints closer together, unify outlooks, and agree on unified stands. This is what happened in Baghdad and this is what happens whenever we meet, since the spirit of Arab brotherhood and collective responsibility prevails and positive stances are adopted.

[Hashim] Can it be said, Sire, that the region is leaning towards reason and that future summits will be positive and free from intransigence and violence?

[King Fahd] We thank God for giving this nation wise leaders who know where their peoples' interests lie and who appreciate the circumstances and the crucial changes taking place around us.

It is natural for everyone to turn to the internationally acceptable and regionally fruitful options which fulfill Arab objectives and rights. We have had enough upheavals and statements of position.

The realistic spirit prevailing in the world today has proved effective in making numerous gains for humanity. The current major changes are the fruit of the recourse to reason and logic in the supreme interest of mankind.

That is why we Arabs are required to demonstrate this constructive spirit and to work sincerely and clearly for our fateful causes.

[Hashim] Are you satisfied—may God keep you safe—with the measures agreed on at the Baghdad summit for dealing with the influx of Jews into Israel?

[King Fahd] There can be no doubt that the situation is most critical. The immigration constitutes a serious challenge to Arab security, in addition to being a threat to Palestinian rights. However, the decisions made; the steps which will be taken; and the response that we

expect from the Soviet Union, the United States, and the Western European states make us optimistic about the possibility of stopping this threat.

We believe that these and other states realize that the Arab states cannot possibly condone support for what is wrong or accept a threat to their national security, and that they could not stand idly by if they saw that Israel was achieving its expansionist designs and aims at our expense.

The Arabs have said what must be said, and, in return for our individual and collective efforts toward the states concerned, we expect complete and objective understanding. We ask nothing more of them than a serious stand to prevent the flow of immigrants to Palestinian in general and the occupied Arab territories in particular.

We do not believe that these states are ignorant of the extent of the damage that could result from the continuation of Israeli policies and from negative attitudes toward its illegitimate actions. [passage omitted]

[Hashim] Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, there is talk of Arab—and particularly Gulf—mediation efforts of some kind between the Kingdom and Iran, but the Iranian media are behaving quite differently. What is the truth about the situation?

[King Fahd] The kingdom's position is clear and well-known. We are in favor of any sincere effort that will spare this nation much suffering and division.

As for Iran in particular, we have not rejected the principle of improving the atmosphere and eliminating all the causes of the current dispute with them.

[Hashim] Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, some people believe that Israel (for example) does not want dialogue and responds to positive attitudes with more intransigence.

[King Fahd] Israel is not the end of this world. The Israelis are deeply convinced—with some confusion—that peace and coexistence would create a climate which would threaten their policies of usurpation and expansion and would more severely limit their ambitions.

I very much hope that the hostile forces do not provoke us and force us to act irrationally, because that would prolong Israel's life and aggression and make it persist in inflicting harm on our sons and our brothers, the Palestinian people, and it would even give it pretexts for expansion and the invasion of more Arab territory.

[Hashim] Sire, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, how do you view the results of the recent summit between Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev, and how much did Third World causes—and especially those of this region—feature at the summit?

[King Fahd] We always look forward to positive results from such meetings between two major world leaders such as the U.S. and Soviet presidents.

Although the full details of the discussions between the two presidents have not been announced or are unknown, we hope that they devote enough attention to the Palestinian cause, which is quite clearly the cause of people defending their legitimate rights and working hard to regain their homeland and determine their own future.

I believe that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has provided the solutions for the current problem. We very much hope that the two superpower leaders understand the problem and work for stability and peace in the region. [passage omitted]

[Hashim] Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the current fluctuations in the oil market reflect instability at a time when the Gulf states are reported to have reached agreement on adherence to the quotas decided at the last meeting. What is the true situation and what are the prospects for the future?

[King Fahd] I have nothing to say on that, other than to emphasize that the whole world is watching OPEC and that any upheavals in the market would not only cause us all problems and difficulties but would also force the consumer countries to gang up against and harm the OPEC countries' interests. We are not isolated from the significant changes taking place in the world today. This is why all Gulf states and other states should take a closer look at their own interests in the context of the higher interests of all OPEC states and also take into consideration the interests of the states and peoples of the international community.

Everyone should realize that the time is now ripe for reaching a long-term agreement to ensure the highest degree of oil market stability and serve the world economy instead of shaking it every now and then. We believe that this concept is understood and that there is now a more tangible interest than ever before in fulfilling it. On the basis of information available to us so far, we expect a new spirit to prevail at future meetings.

We are committed to what was decided at the latest OPEC meeting, and others should be too, because such a commitment is in everyone's interests. [passage omitted]

Indian Foreign Minister Arrives on Two-Day Visit

Received by Tariq 'Aziz

JN1806190690 Baghdad INA in English 1200 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 18, INA—Indian Foreign Minister, Inder Kumar Gujral, arrived here today leading a delegation on a two-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA upon arrival, Mr. Gujral said that he would hold talks with Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy premier and foreign minister, on means of developing bilateral relations as well as the situation in the Middle East and international issues.

The Indian official was received at the airport by the Iraqi foreign minister.

Ministers Discuss Kashmir

BK1906162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Iraq wants that the Kashmir issue should be resolved mutually. This was expressed by the Iraqi foreign minister, Mr. Tariq Aziz, at a meeting with his Indian counterpart, Mr. I.K. Gujral, in Baghdad today.

During the discussion, the Iraqi side told India that Baghdad does not endorse interference in the internal affairs of other countries, nor does Iraq conduct its foreign policy on the basis of religion. This was stated in the context of Pakistan's efforts to enlist support for its stand on Kashmir in the Islamic world.

Talks Resume 19 Jun

JN1906174590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and India which began yesterday resumed today at the Foreign Ministry.

During the talks, chaired on the Iraqi side by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and on the Indian side by Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral, they continued a discussion of the developing regional and international affairs in addition to issues of mutual interest.

The session was attended by the under secretaries of the Indian and Iraqi foreign ministries and the head of the Second Political Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN1906194590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received this evening Indian Foreign Minister I.K. Gujral.

Mr. Gujral delivered an oral message to President Saddam Husayn from Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh in which he expressed a desire to develop bilateral relations between Iraq and India in various fields.

During the meeting they discussed various regional issues pertaining to the Arab area and Indian subcontinent, as well as issues of mutual interest.

The president affirmed Iraq's desire to develop bilateral relations with India—a friendly country. He also affirmed the need to solve the problems of both regions with their neighboring peoples through peaceful dialogue.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Indian ambassador in Baghdad.

Delhi Reports Talks

BK2006041490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Iraq has assured full support to the New Delhi's stand on the Kashmir issue at the forthcoming foreign ministers conference of Organization of Islamic Countries to be held in Cairo next month. The Iraqi foreign minister, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, during the second round of talks with the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, in Baghdad yesterday said his country agrees to India's contention that neighboring countries should not interfere in each other's internal affairs. He said terrorism is unacceptable in all forms. Mr. 'Aziz said a pluralistic society like India offered more protection and prestige to its minorities.

Our Gulf correspondent, Avinash Goel, reports that Mr. Gujral had separate meetings with the PLO leader, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, and the Iraqi president, Mr. Saddam Husayn, last evening. Mr. 'Arafat suggested that India and Pakistan should hold direct talks to resolve their differences. Mr. Gujral's hour-long talks with Mr. Saddam Husayn covered a wide-range of international issues. The Iraqi president expressed the view that religion should not be the basis for solving any bilateral issues. He said India and Pakistan should resolve their differences, including the Kashmir issue, through direct negotiations without any outside involvement.

Meets Saddam, Leaves Baghdad

JN2006092690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jun (INA)—Indian Foreign Minister I.K. Gujral and his delegation left Baghdad this morning at the end of a two-day official visit to Iraq. During the visit, the Indian minister met with President Saddam Husayn and also held talks with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on regional and international developments and issues of mutual interest.

Ba'th Delegation Returns From Yemen Visit

JN1906154190 Baghdad INA in English 1104 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 19, INA—Delegation of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party headed by member of the Party Regional leadership Hasan 'Ali returned home last night at the conclusion of a visit to the Yemeni Republic at the invitation of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress.

In a statement to INA, Mr. 'Ali said he held talks with Secretary General of the Committee Dr. Ahmad Muhammad al-Sabahi on role of political parties and organizations in promoting the Arab struggle to protect pan-Arab security and ward off the fabricated anti-Iraq campaign aimed at hampering its march for mastering science and technology.

Mr. 'Ali added that the final statement issued at the conclusion of the talks confirmed dangers behind the Jewish exodus to occupied Arab lands and declared full support to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

He said that the Iraqi delegation expressed high appreciation over the historic achievment of the Yemeni unity which represented the foundation stone for comprehensive Arab unity.

'Izzat Ibrahim Receives Jordanian Royal Adviser

JN1906154490 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 19, INA—Deputy Chairman of the Revolution Command Council 'Izzat Ibrahim received here today member of the Islamic Conference Executive Council and Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan Ibn-Talal's personal advisor Muhammad Ibrahim Abu-Shaqrah.

Oil Minister Urges OPEC States to Heed Quotas

JN1906111590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0939 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 19 Jun (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim has affirmed that the decade of the nineties will witness a remarkable and tangible development in the oil industries field.

In a comprehensive interview published in the newspaper AL-'IRAQ today, the oil minister said that this abnormal period, which is marked by deteriorating oil prices, is a transient period, as 1990 will witness an increased demand for oil.

'Abd-al-Rahim added: The positive developments concerning production over the past two years will continue. What has occurred during the past few months will be overcome through consultations and understanding among producer countries, and especially through efforts made by the Arab states which have an influence on the oil market.

The oil minister stressed the need to see OPEC member states which exceed production quotas reduce their production to safeguard their interests and revenues. He also urged them not to exceed their quotas to prevent harming producer countries on the market.

The oil minister stated that the OPEC contribution to the international oil market is 40 percent, which he added is increasing steadily. This means that OPEC oil does not represent the largest share of the world production. However, he added, OPEC can influence the course of events; and this can be maximized when coordination and understanding exist between OPEC and non-OPEC oil producing countries.

The oil minister said: Supply and demand affect prices. Oil prices are, however, also affected by other determinants such as the production ceiling and production quotas as well as the positions of non-OPEC oil producing countries. All of these factors affect oil markets. [passage omitted]

Paper Calls for Arab Unity in Post-Summit Stage

JN1906102790 Baghdad INA in English 0945 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 19, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily warned that the forthcoming stage would witness further open and underhand imperialist and Zionist attempts to prevent Baghdad summit resolutions from being implemented and assuming their historic role in meeting challenges facing the Arab nation.

In an article published today, the daily said that to abort such attempts, we, as a nation, have to resort to the unified Arab action as the only way to carry the summit resolutions into effect.

It added that the Arabs should be always on alert, bearing in mind the necessity of retaliating any aggression with all weapons at their disposal.

The paper made it clear that Baghdad summit had brought positive results and changes for all Arabs, confirming that the post-summit stage would face Zionist and imperialist conspiracies representing these circle's reaction to the summit success.

It further said that this reaction could be perceived by the recent political stances and measures, notably, the growing propaganda campaign agianst Iraq and the Arab nation, the U.S. Administration's policy of blackmailing the Palestine Liberation Organization and the formation of the new Zionist government.

AL-THAWRAH pointed out that the political developments underlined the fact that Baghdad summit had come out with resolutions so effective that they would enable the Arab nation to encounter all forms of challenges.

Milo Appeals to Al-Asad From Knesset Podium

TA1806183790 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Reply by Police Minister Roni Milo to Shinuy Knesset Member Avraham Poraz' query regarding Shamir's invitation to al-Asad; in the Knesset on 18 June—videorecorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] We have recently heard statements by several Western leaders, including some who visited Damascus, about the process of moderation occurring in all the Arab countries, especially in Syria; also, about their willingness—never expressed before—to launch a dialogue with us.

The prime minister saw fit to direct an appeal to the Syrian leader to come to negotiations without preconditions, to enable us to find out together whether the Syrian side has indeed become more moderate and whether negotiations and progress toward peace are possible.

The side which seriously intends to hold peace negotiations is the State of Israel. The State of Israel is the only one which proved this by past acts—the peace accords with Egypt.

Knesset Member Poraz asked here whether the government has debated the issue and set down the guidelines, or the conditions for discussions with the Syrian president, if he is indeed ready to hold them. I believe we have stated our unequivocal and determined stance, as the prime minister has defined it: We are interested in negotiations without preconditions. The prime minister's statement is as good as an invitation to the Syrian president, and I am willing to repeat it officially from this podium: We will be very happy to be able to launch peace negotiations with the Syrian president. I am appealing to Syrian President al-Asad to come to Jerusalem and to conduct negotiations with us without preconditions for the sake of peace between Israel and Syria.

Shamir Affirms Jordan Contacts 'Should Continue'

TA1806191490 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Freddy Gruber during visit to Petah Tiqva on 18 June—videorecorded]

[Excerpt] [Gruber] Are we to expect new Israeli ideas to improve ties with Egypt [as heard] in the near future?

[Shamir] Well, we always have an abundance of ideas. The question is to what extent the Arab side responds to these ideas. King Husayn has a lot of experience in contacts with the State of Israel, and these contacts should continue. I believe that, although the king occasionally expresses extreme thoughts, down deep in his heart he believes there is no need to fear Israel or expect any aggressive surprises from the Israeli side. I see the future with peaceful coexistence with Jordan. [passage omitted]

Shamir Says New Peace Initiatives Underway

TA1906123490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Israel is now working on new initiatives and ideas to further the peace process, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared after paying Foreign Minister David Levi a visit in 'Afula's hospital.

The prime minister pointed out that the new chemical plant President al-Qadhdhafi [title as heard] is setting up in Libya does not pose an immediate danger to Israel, but it should not be taken lightly. It should cause concern and the world should take note of it, Shamir said.

Meridor Calls for Peace Talks With Palestinians

TA1906185490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Justice Minister Dan Meridor says Israel's new government has a better chance of advancing the peace process than the previous national unity government, because it speaks with one voice. Addressing the Jerusalem Economics Club, Meridor invited Palestinian leaders in the territories to start talks with the government and called on Syria and Jordan to make peace with Israel.

Reporter Steve Linde interviewed him afterwards:

[Begin Meridor recording] I hope this government is much more capable of advancing the peace process than the previous governments. Not that the previous governments did not want peace—I suppose all of us want peace—but this government speaks in one voice and says one very clear thing. It's not double-headed, and the other side—namely, the Arabs—know for sure that this is the government, these are the people they have to talk to and to relate to. I hope this government will be strong enough and courageous enough both in fighting terrorism, in fighting the violent attacks against Jews and Arabs in this country, safeguarding the lives of people here, and, on the other hand, doing its utmost to start talks with the Arabs who live here with us in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. And, if the Arab countries—Syria, Jordan, other Arab countries—are interested and will respond to our call—we will talk with them on peace. I think we can do it; it takes the other side to be present. So far, we have not seen the other side ringing our phone and asking us to talk. [end recording]

[In a similar report on Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic at 1630 GMT on 19 June, Meridor says in Hebrew: "We should seek various routes to make an intensive effort to start talks with the Palestinians. Talks about what? I would tell them: You are saying you cannot reach an agreement with us, that you want Arab countries to participate in the process. Well, they are not

coming. Some of you want 'Arafat, but there is no chance we will talk with an organization that wants to wipe us out. We will wait, and when Arab countries decide to talk with us, we will make a peace agreement with them—I wish it were possible tomorrow morning. So far, no one except Egypt has come. They are afraid to come.

["Meanwhile gentlemen, all those living in Nabulus, Hebron, Bethlehem, let us reach an agreement for the time being without impairing any of your claims or any of ours; without me waiving even a millimeter of my rights, and without you waiving a millimeter of what you want. In the meantime, let us reach a settlement that is, by nature, an interim settlement, that will alter your conditions and ours dramatically. Let us try to live without terror for five, 10 years, with you being in charge of your affairs without our intervention. With security in our hands, we will all try to conduct life together, Jews and Arabs. In the next stage, we will discuss the more difficult things—borders, sovereignty—and each side will present its demands."]

Levi Sends 'Abd-Al-Majid Peace Process Message

TA2006062290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The Israeli Government's new political initiative is slowly becoming clearer. We have new details this morning. The Israeli Government steadfastly adheres to its initiative, and is willing to hold elections in the territories, while coordinating positions with Egypt. Israel will be willing to hear the Palestinians' demands, if its security is guaranteed. The PLO is obviously and completely out of the question. These statements are included in a message delivered by Foreign Minister David Levi to Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. Our Arab affairs correspondent Gadi Hitman reports:

Shim'on Shamir, Israel's ambassador to Cairo, yesterday met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. The two men discussed the composition of the new government in Israel, and the chances of moving the peace process forward. The Israeli ambassador brought the Egyptian minister several political ideas from the foreign minister's bureau in Jerusalem.

Radio Monte Carlo reported on the details of the meeting, from which it transpired that Israel is interested in direct negotiations with Egypt, or in other words, in the establishment of a more direct and close dialogue in order to further the process.

According to the ideas raised by Shim'on Shamir, Israel is ready to hold elections in the territories in accordance with an agreement with Cairo. Egypt would be the party dealing with the Palestinian side, and the elections would be conducted on the basis of the Israeli Government's peace initiative. It was further said that a peace agreement with any Arab state must include guarantees for Israel's security. Another idea—which could possibly be inferred to constitute a condition—is that Israel would be ready to discuss the Palestinian demands, especially after guarantees of Israel's security are given. During the meeting, it was made clear that Israel would not negotiate with the PLO, but only with an elected representation of the Palestinians.

From the above, there is no doubt that we are talking about an intensive political effort by Jerusalem that is directed toward both Cairo and Washington, and that the three capitals are busy consolidating practical steps to further the peace process.

Arens Discusses Shamir Peace Initiative

TA2006053490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says the Shamir government's initiative remains the only viable peace initiative in the area. He was speaking to reporters at the end of a visit to Gaza. Traveling with the defense minister was our reporter, Alan Ben-'Ami.

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] This was Arens' second trip into the territories since becoming defense minister. Last week he visited Jewish settlements at Ari'el and Ma'ale Adummim. Yesterday, it was the turn of NAHAL [soldiers who establish settlements] soldiers in Gaza city, and of Palestinians at a hospital nearby. But the new defense minister remains close-lipped about any policy changes he may be contemplating regarding the Army and the intifadah.

[Arens] Well, I do not want to make any pronouncements as a result of one short trip to Gaza. [passage omitted]

[Ben-'Ami] From what you have seen here and in Judaea and Samaria, do you feel that there may be any room for a change of policy with regard to the Army and the intifadah?

[Arens] There is always room for improvement.

[Ben-'Ami] The defense minister has said that he plans to talk to a variety of Palestinians in the territories, as part of the new government's effort to push the peace process forward. What the response would be he could not say, but he said the Shamir initiative remains the only game in town.

[Arens] I think that Mr. Shamir's initiative of May 1989 is the only initiative around, and the only initiative that can produce results in the peace process, on condition that the Arab world has raised a response to that initiative, and on condition that the violence here ends.

[Ben-'Ami] And what about the current state of relations between Israel and the United States? What can be done to improve the situation here?

[Arens] I do not think that we should exaggerate the damage or the need for repair. I think that the United States-Israeli relationship is built on very, very sound

foundations, and I think that we can weather any differences of opinion that we have had, and I am sure we will have in the future as well, on a number of issues of mutual concern, including the peace process.

Shamir Says Iraq Aims To Discourage Immigration

TA2006044190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says the threats of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn are aimed at raising tension in the region in order to harm Soviet Jewish immigration. The prime minister was interviewed last night by reporter Le'a Zinder at Bar-Ilan University where he received an honorary doctorate.

[Begin recording] [Zinder] Mr. Prime Minister, the foreign minister today said that there is a real danger from the Iraqi threat, and, on the other hand, the director general of your office said this is just an attempt to create pressure on Israel via the United States. How do you see the situation?

[Shamir] Well, I think there is not any contradiction between these two statements. Threats are creating tension and dangerous tension and unnecessary tension. Therefore I think that all these threats create an atmosphere of artificial tension. It seems to me that the Arab countries want to demonstrate to the world that the great aliyah—the great immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel—is the reason for a danger of war and for tension. Therefore the civilized world has to do something against this aliyah. I hope they will not succeed. [end recording]

Agenda, Structure of Aliyah Cabinet Determined

TA1806144390 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Jun 90 p A10

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon and Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz yesterday held their first operational meeting, during which they decided on work procedures for the Aliyah Cabinet. They also discussed a series of issues that will occupy the cabinet's first meetings.

Because of the urgency of the issues, the Aliyah Cabinet, which will focus on housing and employment, will convene once a week. It will be headed by Minister Sharon, and, as decided by the cabinet yesterday, Minister Peretz will be Sharon's deputy.

Ministers Sharon and Peretz also agreed that the absorption minister will remain the chairman of the interministerial committee on immigrant absorption, which is comprised of directors general of ministries connected to the absorption of aliyah.

Minister Peretz proposed to cooperate with Minister Sharon toward trying to get the cabinet resolution rescinded which determined that two thirds of all new apartments will be built in central Israel. Mr. Peretz said: It is a mistaken decision in view of the opportunity to settle the Galilee and the Negev. At least 50 percent of the new apartments should be built in those peripheral areas.

The construction and housing minister told the immigrant absorption minister that he shares his view on this matter and that he will act to implement it.

Based on the broad understanding the two ministers enjoyed in their meeting, they expressed the hope for close cooperation in the future.

Arens Reacts to Saddam Husayn Statement

TA1906152790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Report by 'Amos Har'el]

[Text] There were no new developments in Saddam Husayn's declarations yesterday, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said. We have known the man for a long time. It is obvious that his announcements do not promote peace. There is certainly concern that Saddam will try to act against us, even without any Israeli instigation. It is not the first time that the Iraqi leader has made such declarations.

[Begin Arens recording] We regard those statements as hostile. Sometimes they appear to be relatively moderate because he threatens that Iraq will attack if we attack an Arab country, but we know that there are Iraqi officials who claim that Israel's very existence constitutes an aggressive act against the Arab world. [end recording]

These remarks, in response to the Iraqi leader's remarks yesterday, were made during a tour of Gaza city today. It was the first visit there by Arens since he was appointed defense minister. I am still in the process of learning, he said. Nothing is frozen, we will have to adapt ourselves to the circumstances, Arens added. I would be very surprised if my conclusions are identical to those of my predecessor. Arens, however, refused to answer explicitly the main question, whether he plans to change the definition of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] task and to unequivocally demand: Uproot the intifadah.

[Begin recording] [Arens] I think that when instructions and guidelines are presented to the IDF, they must be very well thought out, properly defined, and capable of being implemented.

[Har'el] Does that mean you will not issue such an order?

[Arens] I did not say that. [end recording]

Together with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff; Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories; and Matan Vilna'i, the commander of the Southern Command, Arens also visited al-Nasir Hospital in the town, and conferred with the medical staff. He also conferred with a delegation from the Egyptian Educational Ministry visiting the Gaza Strip to supervise the matriculation examinations there.

Arens was briefed by IDF commanders in the Gaza Strip, and held conversations with officers of a regular Army brigade on operational duty in the area.

[Begin Arens recording] I visited Gaza today and saw only part of what the IDF is doing there. I spent precious time with the commander of the region and senior officers, and received the impression that the IDF is doing a hard, unpleasant job and is doing it well. [end recording]

Meridor Cites Important U.S. Role in Talks

TA2006044690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Justice Minister Dan Meridor says he does not advocate abandoning the proposals of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for Israeli-Palestinian talks. Meridor says the United States still has an important role to play in the peace process, but adds that Washington must understand that Israel cannot negotiate with terrorists.

[Begin recording] [Meridor] The United States has been very helpful in the past. The United States can be helpful in the present time provided that they understand, as we do, that you have to both imaginative in talking with the enemies—with the Arab states—with the Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and in the same time not be tolerant vis-a-vis terror and be ready to fight. If we are not ready to fight terrorism, the PLO in all its forms, then I don't see much chance for peace. [end recording]

U.S.-PLO Dialogue Termed 'Obstacle' to Peace

TA2006105590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Report by Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar]

[Text] Washington is waiting for a telephone call from Israel, Israel is waiting for a call from the Arab leaders, but the Knesset is not waiting for anybody. Stop the dialogue with the PLO, rightist Knesset members [MK's] urged Washington. Continue the contacts in Tunis despite everything, the leftists said. Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo, who represented the government, disclosed that the interrogation of the terrorists [involved in the 30 May attack] proved beyond a doubt that one of their targets was the U.S. Embassy. What else has to happen for the contacts between the United States and the PLO to be severed?, Milo asked, but did not publicly call for an official announcement on the cessation of the dialogue.

[Begin Milo recording] The Israeli Government believes that the U.S.-PLO dialogue constitutes a serious obstacle to making progress in the peace process. It was clear from the start that Israel's security must be based on the fact that there is no U.S.-PLO dialogue. [end recording]

Likud MK Beni Begin referred to talks he had with U.S. officials. Citizens Rights Movement MK Yosi Sarid responded.

[Begin Begin recording] U.S. interlocuters told me: Our intentions are honest and our actions are good. We plan to tame the beast. I reiterated to them: Sooner or later, apparently sooner rather than later, you will learn that the beast is taming you. We were not so mistaken in taking into account what has since happened. [end recording]

[Begin Sarid recording] Shamir, on the one hand, and PLO extremists, on the other, are pulling us into a terrible moral dilemma. From the depths of that dilemma, we call on the U.S. Administration not to sever ties with the PLO and not to suspend the dialogue with it because it is the last chance, no matter how tenuous, for a dialogue with the Palestinians. [end recording]

Papers Report Military Activity; School Reopens

TA1906143090

[Editorial report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 19 June carries three reports on page 12 by Joel Greenberg. One says that "the body of the mukhtar of the West Bank village of Buruqin was found hanging by the neck from an olive tree yesterday after he was slain for alleged cooperation with Israel, according to reports from neighouring Janin.

"The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] confirmed that the body was found, and said police were investigating. A curfew was imposed on the village."

"Over 200 Palestinians have been slain since the start of the intifada for alleged 'collaboration,' drug dealing and prostitution," adds Greenberg.

"In Hebron, a pipe-bomb exploded in a building under construction on which there is an IDF lookout post, military sources said. The explosion caused no casualties or damage."

In another report, Greenberg notes that "The Israeli human-rights group, Betzelem, has written to the Defence Ministry demanding an inquiry into the deaths of 17 Palestinians who were allegedly shot at close range during clashes which occurred in the territories between May 20-31, following the Rishon Leziyyon massacre."

"Military sources said the circumstances of each incident are still under investigation. Initial army statements about the deaths, based on preliminary debriefings, have indicated no improper behaviour by troops."

In his third report, Greenberg says that "an IDF soldier who severely beat a detained Palestinian human rights worker and suspected activist, has been demoted and sentenced to three months in jail."

Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin, writing on page A2 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 19 June, report that "apart from sporadic clashes with IDF units, no outstanding events" in the Gaza Strip were recorded on 18 June. "Palestinian sources reported three injured during clashes in the Gaza Strip, mainly in the Jabalyah refugee

camp," but "both the Palestinian sources and the military sources reported quiet in the Strip.

"The IDF lifted the curfew from al-Shaykh 'Ajlin."

Hanan Schlein and 'Imanu'el Rosen report on page A9 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 19 June that "Palestinian sources have reported that the security forces carried out initiated operations in Kafr Qallil. Three Hablah residents were reportedly detained. Two other locals from Ra's al-Tirah [placename as published]were also detained.

"The Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration yesterday permitted high schools in al-Khidr and Bayt Sahur, in the Bethlehem district, to reopen after a two-month closure following stoning incidents."

Shots Fired From Jordan 19 Jun; No Casualties

TA2006043090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 20 Jun 90

[Text] Near Kibbutz Neve Ur in the Jordan Valley, shots were fired at an Army patrol from Jordanian territory yesterday. No Israeli soldiers were hurt. The soldiers returned fire and reported that Jordanian soldiers later conducted searches for the gunmen.

Amid Budget Cuts, Army Requests Increase

TA2006134190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Jun 90 P A2

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff and Tzvi Zrahya]

[Text] The General Staff has asked the prime minister and the defense minister to increase the defense budget by the impressive sum of several hundred million shekels in the near future. The demand was justified by the need to recoup the costs of quelling the intifadah.

The demand for a higher budget was originally made to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir [who was acting defense minister during the caretaker government], even before Moshe Arens was appointed defense minister. The request was submitted by Chief of Staff Dan Shomron, and was presented to Arens when he assumed the post of defense minister.

In the wake of the new defense minister's call to improve the safety of the settlers, take greater action to secure roads in the territories, and stop the phenomenon of stone throwing, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] claims that any such effort would require additional resources. This is presented by the IDF as grounds for its demand for an enlarged defense budget.

The IDF's appeal will understandably meet opposition from the Finance Ministry, whose directors have recently implied that the process of immigrant absorption will necessitate budget cuts, including some cuts in the Defense Ministry's funds.

Financial elements yesterday rejected the defense establishment's demand for budget increases. They pointed out that the government must first implement its decisions on immigration, and only afterwards discuss other issues.

Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and Prime Minister Shamir have agreed, over the past few days, to implement the Cabinet's decision of a month ago to slash 550 million shekels [approximately $225 million U.S.] from the state budget. A special ministerial committee will be set up in the coming days to decide exactly where the budgetary cuts will come. After deciding this, and securing the agreement of the relevant minister, the Finance Ministry will submit a new state budget of 2.447 billion shekels for the Knesset's approval.

Shamir Urged To Address PLO, Not Al-Asad

TA1906183290 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 19 Jun 90 p 11

[By Sirhan al-Salayima: "The Invitation to Al-Asad Is Not the Right Address"]

[Text] Apparently Shamir is trying to knock on doors again. This is a new-old policy. It seems, though, that he does not wish to knock on the right door, but on alternative doors which he knows beforehand are not the right address. Two days ago Shamir invited Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to visit Israel, and called on Yasir 'Arafat to disband the PLO and end its role. Why this contradiction? Last week Baker announced the U.S. State Department's phone number [as published] and specified it as the place to contact for those who want to talk seriously about peace in the Middle East, particularly Israel. But apparently Shamir does not like Baker's method of concocting political plans. We shall permit ourselves, here, to sit in place of the Syrian president and ask: What will Shamir offer us were we to respond to this invitation? Is Shamir ready, for example, to withdraw from the Golan Heights—which according to Israeli law, ratified by the Israeli Knesset, are an indivisible part of Israel?

Is Shamir ready to adopt a decision on withdrawing the Israeli Army from the border strip in south Lebanon, or on total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories according to Security Council Resolution 242?

These are not conditions, but general principles on which the foundations of peace in the Middle East are based. Is Shamir, for example, ready to accept them as basic principles on which Al-Asad's trip from Damascus to Ben-Gurion Airport would be based? Another aspect must be considered here in particular. Does Shamir believe that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad can end the Arab-Israeli conflict by uttering a word?

The Arab-Israeli conflict has a core, and that is the Palestinian problem. This problem has a key, and its key is the PLO, which is the right address and cannot be circumvented. This fact is proving itself emphatically, day after day.

In my opinion, knocking on other doors is of no avail and is tantamount to floating political balloons that do not have any political or media impact.

Someone who wants to make peace must be brave, pragmatic, and serious. He should determine the extent and depth of the wound, put his hand on it, then treat it correctly and hygienically.

As for talk about political generalities, words from pulpits, and sermons, these will not relieve Shamir of the image of a hard-line man who rejects any just and lasting peace in the region. Disassociation from this image requires that practical, clear, and courageous political steps be taken by knocking on the right door, leading to the right path. This is something of which, we believe, Mr. Shamir is well aware.

Novik Terms Report on PLO Talks 'Unfounded Lie'

TA1906101790 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Jun 90 p A6

[Report by Ilan Bachar]

[Text] "I am not in the habit of commenting on every report, which is subsequently refuted, about my term as political adviser to the prime minister or the vice prime minister. Yet the report alleging that I held talks with PLO representatives is not only an unfounded lie, but could also implicate me for breaking the law that bans such meetings." This was the reaction yesterday of Dr. Nimrod Novik, Shim'on Peres' former adviser, to reports that he, Avraham Tamir, and Yosi Beilin had met with PLO personalities.

Dr. Novik added: During the past six years, I have been had contacts covering a broad range of issues, including developing and promoting ties with countries with which Israel did not have diplomatic relations, from the USSR and East European countries to state and royal elements from the Arab world.

Throughout my activity, there was not even a single case in which Israeli law was not fully, unwaveringly, and most scrupulously honored, following the principle that it is impossible to serve national interests by breaking the law. I was therefore surprised by these unproven reports which failed to present my reaction, an incident that I regret.

Levi Denies Tension With Shamir, Meets Basyuni

TA1806183690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi's bureau has denied the report of tension between the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office. Levi's bureau says the two ministries maintain an ongoing contact and coordinate their positions. Jack Katzenell reports:

Foreign Minister David Levi's office confirms the reports that a message from the prime minister to Egypt's President Mubarak was held up on Levi's instructions. But Levi's office says this was with the knowledge of the Prime Minister's Office, and the reason for the delay was that Foreign Minister Levi wished to speak with Israel's Ambassador to Cairo Shim'on Shamir before the message was sent.

The conversation took place yesterday at 'Afula Hospital where Levi is convalescing from a heart attack. The foreign minister told the ambassador he attached great importance to the creation of an atmosphere of trust between Israel and Egypt.

Still in hospital, Levi today received Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni and told him Israel is concerned over Egypt's attacks on Jewish immigration to Israel, and over the belligerent atmosphere at the Baghdad summit. On the other hand, Israel sees Egypt as a bridge to the Arab world and the promotion of the peace process, David Levi told the Egyptian ambassador.

Magen Temporarily Heads Labor Ministry

TA1906175790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] As of today, Minister David Magen will be in charge of the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, in addition to his other duties. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that today the prime minister tasked Minister Magen with the ministry, which is being held for Agudat Yisra'el, if it decides to join the coalition.

Debate Period Lengthened for No-Confidence Motion

TA1806153990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] The Knesset House Committee has approved an amendment according to which any motion of no confidence in the government will be debated 1 week after it is submitted, instead of 48 hours, as is done at present.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the amendment was approved upon the proposal of committee chairman Hayim Korfu from the Likud. The reason he gave for his proposal was that Knesset members outside Israel must be allowed sufficient time to return home.

Islamic Detainees' Link With Amman Attack Denied

JN1906202590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jum 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—Security forces have detained five people, including four members of the Islamic Jihad Bayt al-Maqdis group, and weapons were seized from them, a security source said Monday.

The source, who spoke to the JORDAN TIMES on condition of anonymity, rejected reports that the five were linked to an attack on French tourists in downtown Amman on May 21, one day after an Israeli gunman massacred eight Palestinian workers near Tel Aviv. "The five have no links with Ahmad Badwan," said the source referring to the lone assailant who carried out the attack on tourists. Badwan is still under investigation and no evidence has been found yet linking him to any group, the source said

Tal'at al-Tamimi, son of Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, head of the Islamic Jihad group, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that his two brothers, two bodyguards of the senior al-Tamimi and an unidentified official of the Palestinian Liberation Army (PLA) were the five arrested. As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi is currently visiting Libya and is expected to return to Amman Tuesday, Tal'at al-Tamimi told the AP. [passage omitted]

'Source' Denies Shots Fired at Israeli Patrol

JN2006125990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] An official Jordanian source has categorically denied that shots were fired from Jordanian territories at an Israeli patrol. The official source said that the Jordanian Army units deployed along the cease-fire lines did not notice any suspect movement.

Later, it was revealed that a Jordanian farmer in the northern region [of the Jordan Valley] fired shots at a wild boar to prevent it from approaching his fields.

The Jordanian denial came in response to reports citing Israeli military sources claiming that an Israeli patrol came under fire on Tuesday night from the Jordanian territories. The same sources added that the soldiers walking near Kibbutz Neve Ur south of Tiberias Lake returned fire. The sources did not indicate whether any injuries took place on either side.

It is noteworthy to mention here that eight cases of firing and infiltration attempts have taken place across the cease-fire line between Jordan and Israel since the beginning of this year.

Baker Statement Seen As 'Tranquilizer' for Arabs

JN1606083090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Jun 90 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Throwing the Israeli Gauntlet in Baker's Face"]

[Text] Israel threw its gauntlet in James Baker's face when it announced yesterday that it does not intend to give an affirmative reponse to his proposals on a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. This announcement came two days after Baker's angry outburst at Israel while speaking about the stumbling Middle East peace process before a congressional committee. Israel has thus made a direct, public challenge to the U.S. secretary of state—as though it were a disciplinary measure and a notice to the U.S. Administration that Baker's plan, which was the reason for the collapse of the former Israeli government, is being rejected by the present Israeli Government, and that an early announcement of this rejection, in the manner it was delivered, is the lesson Israel intends to teach to the U.S. secretary of state within plain view of the U.S. Administration and everyone else!

It is obvious that Israel could not have behaved in this way without being certain that Baker's statement was a show that exceeded its limits, not a declaration of a new policy or an indication of the possibility of pursuing a new policy. Thus, Israel did not forgive Baker, despite its awareness that his statement is nothing but a tranquilizer for the Arabs, when it realized that this dose has exceeded the allowed quantity.

We have already warned against exaggerating the true dimensions of Baker's statement and attaching unrealistic hopes to it, and here is Washington playing down this statement by announcing that the U.S. secretay of state did not intend to blame Israel, but to point to the obstacles facing the peace process in general! Thus, Washington has indirectly apologized to Israel and revealed anew its failure to regain credibility in the region.

The U.S. Administration's game of giving reassuring statements in order to appear evenhanded in the Arab-Israeli conflict is now governed by Israeli standards and interventions similar to the Israeli reaction to Baker's recent statement. At any rate, this is not a strange development, since it is a natural progression of the lack of U.S. credibility, which is not just confined to actions but is now very clear through statements.

All this should serve as a fresh warning to the Arabs that the U.S. role is rapidly becoming an Israeli instrument. The Arabs should take this into consideration.

Minister Urges U.S. To Pressure Israel

PM1806152090 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 18 Jun 90 pp 16-17

[Interview with Jordanian Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din by Faysal al-Shabul in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Shabul] Do you view President Gorbachev's statements as a new development in relation to events in the region?

['Izz-al-Din] It is a new developmpent because it conveys a clear and specific message. He clearly stressed the need for Israeli guarantees that Jews would not be settled in the occupied Arab territories, otherwise he would stop the emigration. His statement is clear, and we must deal with it on that basis, and we should also monitor its implementation.

[Al-Shabul] Do you expect a change in the U.S. position?

['Izz-al-Din] The U.S. position on the Palestinian question in general and the emigration issue in particular is regrettable. It is not making any attempt to stop the deterioration in the region and does not even try to find a suitable mechanism for the implementation of the resolutions that it has accepted as a superpower. There is no linkage whatsoever between its declared policy and Israel's rejection of that policy, insofar as it puts no pressure on Israel to persuade it to abandon its extremism, rejection of peace, and contribution to the explosive situation in the region. The United States is not helping progress toward peace because it is not putting pressure on Israel and is not seeking a mechanism for implementing the international resolutions that it has accepted.

[Al-Shabul] Will King Husayn be visiting Washington soon?

['Izz-al-Din] His Majesty King Husayn visits the United States all the time. He may pay a visit in the near future and this will be announced in due course.

[Al-Shabul] So Jordan still attaches some hope to the U.S. policy in the region.

['Izz-al-Din] The United States is a superpower, and so is the Soviet Union. Consultations and discussions must therefore continue with a view to influencing these two powers. We must not despair of dialogue with them because that would really be deterimental to us.

The Zionist lobby in Washington wants the dialogue between the U.S. Administration and the PLO severed, and its plan is to undermine U.S. relations with every Arab state and to prevent the Arab states from receiving U.S. arms, technology, and financial facilities. The Arab states must resist that trend. They must not reach the point of severing the dialogue but must conduct a dialogue while at the same time safeguarding their rights and maintaining a clear outlook and a unified Arab stand. [passage omitted]

$25 Million Aid Installment Arrives From Kuwait

JN2006074890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Jun 90 Second Edition p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Mumani]

[Text] Amman—A high-level Jordanian source affirmed last night that the kingdom has received the first installment of aid provided by the fraternal State of Kuwait and which amounts to $25 million as part of the Kuwaiti aid to Jordan estimated at $75 million.

The source added that the Kuwaiti Government informed Jordan of its intention to provide it with $75 million this year in three installments, in addition to further aid estimated at $60 million in petroleum products.

This aid comes in support of the Jordanian economy in accordance with the recommendations approved by the pan-Arab security summit, which was held in Baghdad on 28 May. Under these recommendations, the Arab countries pledged to provide this financial aid to Jordan to enable it to overcome its current economic hardships and bolster its steadfastness against the Zionist enemy's constant threats.

Jordan has already received $25 million from fraternal Iraq as part of the Iraqi aid to Jordan, which amounts to $50 million. The United Arab Emirates has also given Jordan $20 million for the same purpose.

King Urges Muslim, Christian Defense of Jerusalem

JN1906201290 Amman Television Service in English 1845 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] His majesty the king met this afternoon with participants in a seminar on holy Jerusalem, which opened in Amman today. His majesty stressed that defending the Arab right to Jerusalem is a Muslim and Christian responsibility. The bond between the two religions, the king added, has placed them throughout history in confrontation with all attempts against Palestine and Jerusalem. The king said that what happens today is part of a plan aimed at the entire region, adding that some superpowers are concerned with their own interests at the expense of morality and values.

Earlier, Mr. Kamil al-Sharif, [secretary general of the World Islamic Council for Call and Relief], briefed his majesty on the seminar and its objectives. The chief of the Royal Court and his majesty's political adviser attended the audience.

Ja'ja' Denies Presence of Israeli Experts

NC1806121490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Excerpts] In an interview with AL-HAYAH published today, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' stressed that the war in the Christian area is over and that his words reflect his impression and the Lebanese Forces' stand and the inability of General Michel 'Awn. He added: We never wanted war and we do not want it today. Gen. 'Awn does not have the resources to carry out military operations against us. As to the violations that take place from time to time, this is to be expected when two miltary forces face each other and no disengagement between them takes place. Dr. Ja'ja' then stressed that there are no unusual military preparations on the Lebanese Forces' side. [passage omitted]

Asked his view about the present situation in the eastern area, he said: Neither we nor Gen. 'Awn want it. The citizens are also very annoyed with it. Some regional powers want to maintain the status quo while others want to get rid of it. I believe that the latter forces are the stronger and this is the reason for my optimism. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Lebanese Forces' stand on the al-Ta'if accord, Dr. Ja'ja' said that this accord is good as a starting point for a national dialogue but it is not the final solution.

Regarding relations with the United States and the U.S. stand on the papal initiative, Dr. Ja'ja' stressed that this relationship is alive and well but within the limits of Lebanon's interests, sovereignty, and freedom. He said: We exchange views on it but it does not influence us. According to my information, the U.S. stand on the Vatican's initiative is not a negative one. What interests them in this aspect is the acceptance of President Ilyas al-Hirawi's legitimacy.

Regarding his stance on President al-Hirawi's legitimacy, Dr. Ja'ja' said: Our stand is a principled one. We must differentiate between what is called legitimacy in the present conditions and the individuals who represent legitimacy. Those individuals might be good or bad but you cannot leave Lebanon without an internationally recognized legitimacy, otherwise you lose your identity and existence as an entity. If I were to discount President al-Hirawi, then I would be, either knowingly or unknowingly, discounting the international recognition of Lebanon and its last vestiges as a state. [passage omitted]

Regarding the handing over of weapons to the legitimate authority, Dr. Ja'ja' stressed that the time has not yet come to hand over the Lebanese Forces' weapons. But, he added, when all the militias hand over their weapons, then we will hand over our weapons.

Answering a question about the rumors that Israeli experts have appeared in the Lebanese Forces ranks, Dr. Ja'ja' stressed that these rumors are shameful and false. He called on whoever wants to inspect the Lebanese Forces positions to ascertain whether these rumors are true or not.

Chamber Speaker, Delegation Leave for Damascus

NC1906083090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni left for Damascus today leading a parliamentary delegation on a two-day visit during which he will hold talks with senior Syrian officials.

French Envoy Arrives in Beirut 18 Jun

NC1806174190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Francois Scheer, French Foreign Ministry secretary general, arrived in Beirut aboard a private plane at 1845 today. During his visit, the French official will hold talks with senior Lebanese officials on the current situation, in light of the French move to support Lebanon at this stage.

Scheer declined to make any arrival statement. However, he noted that he will make a statement later.

Cabinet Reacts to Papal, French Efforts

NC1906140290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Statement by Information Minister Edmond Rizq following a cabinet meeting in West Beirut on 19 June—recorded]

[Excerpt] The cabinet discussed political, economic, and administrative affairs. His excellency the president explained the efforts of the papal nuncio, who visited and had contact with the president, the Chamber of Deputies speaker, and the prime minister on several occasions. On the basis of the president's clarifications, the cabinet expressed thanks for the Vatican's efforts to find solutions for the Lebanese situation and to help ensure Lebanese interests. The cabinet, however, has declared and still declares that the position of the state is clear; that is, the way is open for everyone, without exception or discrimination, to join legitimacy on the basis of the national accord document and without preconditions. There can be no bargaining over the accord and there can be absolutely no talk about giving a sop to anyone. Anyone who joins legitimacy and proves his good intentions will have his case discussed and will be treated equally and appropriately by all the officials concerned.

His excellency the president also reviewed the new French effort and the visit by two high-level French Foreign Ministry envoys. The two envoys, who met with the president this morning and will meet later with the prime minister and the Chamber of Deputies speaker, underlined the clear French position of support for Lebanese legitimacy and the national Lebanese accord on the basis of the al-Ta'if agreement, which is at present

the only available means and the appropriate step toward peace, the revival of the institutions, and assistance to the state in reimposing its authority over the entire homeland. [passage omitted]

Syrian Forces Continue Beirut Security Measures

JN1806070690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Beirut—Syrian Arab forces continued to implement security measures in West Beirut in order to maintain security and stability. They carried out these measures in Burj Abi Haydar and the surrounding areas today amid wide public and official welcoming.

Lebanese Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin described the measures carried out by the Syrian Arab forces as a positive achievement, which, he said, would facilitate the implementation of the security plan. In a statement today, he added that this plan will be implemented when security prevails, which he hopes will be soon.

Israeli, Militia Activities in South Reported

NC1906065490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] According to reports from the occupied area, Israeli forces rotated their motorized units along the confrontation line in western al-Biqa' during the past 48 hours.

The occupation forces used phosphorous shells to bombard the Jabbur and al-Sultanah forests during the night of 17 June, causing fires that destroyed many trees.

Meanwhile, Lahd's militia stationed in Zummarayya hill used artillery to shell the Mimis sector and Jabal al-Dahr ridges in the Hasbayya sector yesterday morning, causing property damage. A militia force then crossed the Zummarayya crossing point and advanced into the liberated area, raking it with machine gun fire.

An Israeli motorized patrol crossed the confrontation line in the direction of (Bi'r al-Huruf) hill which overlooks villages in western al-Biqa'. The patrol used one of its tanks to fire five rounds in the direction of the Maydun forests. An armored car also raked the area with machine gun fire.

According to security reports, the occupation authorities built huts on all the crossing points leading to the border area in order to search women. They assigned this task to Israeli girls.

The occupation authorities recently established offices on the crossing points to collect fees they recently imposed on those wishing to enter the occupied area, amounting to $90 for a period of three months.

Reuter has reported that huge fires have raged on the border area between Lebanon and occupied Palestine, causing dozens of mines planted by the Israeli forces to explode, and encircling two UN observers.

Israeli Planes Break Sound Barrier Over South

NC2006085790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes conducted reconnaissance sorties over the south and broke the sound barrier at 0930 today.

Fighting in South; More Overflights

NC2006102290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] radio reports that a several people were wounded when an armed group entered a mine field in the Kafr Falus area today. The radio adds that the gunmen evacuated the wounded under cover of rocket fire.

According to fundamentalist sources, a group attacked an SLA post in Kafr Falus at dawn today and clashed with the militiamen guarding the post.

In another development, intensive Israeli sorties were reported today over Sidon, the Palestinian camps, the mountain, western al-Biqa', and the capital.

Intensive Overflights Continue

NC2006140990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes have flown at a low altitude over areas to the east of Sidon and western al-Biqa'. They were confronted with antiaircraft fire. There have also been intensive sorties by Israeli planes over the south, the mountain, and the capital since this morning. These flights continued in the afternoon.

Five Wounded in Inter-Palestinian Fighting

NC1906171190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] According to Palestinian sources in the south, five civilians were injured in a clash between 'Arafat and Abu-Nidal supporters in 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp in Sidon this morning.

Meanwhile, Israeli radio reported that a gunman was killed and another arrested as an armed Palestinian group from Fatah attempted to infiltrate a south Lebanese Army post near Kafr Falus Town.

Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Arrives

Congratulates Counterpart

JN1906182590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni arrived in Damascus this morning accompanied by a number of Chamber members. He was received near the [Damascus] Shooting Club by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, a few Assembly members, and the People's Assembly secretary general.

Mr. al-Husayni made a statement to the SANA correspondent in which he said the objective of this visit is to congratulate 'Abd- al-Qadir Qaddurah on his election as speaker of the People's Assembly and the election of the Assembly office, and to hold talks with our colleagues in the Syrian People's Assembly on developing and bolstering cooperative relations between the councils in the fraternal countries to serve their joint interests and strengthen fraternal relations.

Mr. al-Husayni said that bilateral relations are distinguished, and we truly mean what we say. Therefore, cooperation and coordination between the two councils are everyone's desire. He added: Thankfully, there are preparatory activities under way by the Syrian Arab forces to implement security measures. They have provided the citizens with great security and set up the appropriate climate in preparation for the security plan which the legitimate Lebanese government will implement.

Mr. Husayn al-Husayni is accompanied on this visit by members of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Khatchig Babikian, Dr. Jamil Kibbi, Tawfiq 'Assaf, Dr. Zaki Mazbudi, Butrus Harb, Muhammad Yusuf Baydun, Auguste Bachus, Mikha'il al-Dahir, Farid Jubran, Yusuf Hammud, Salih al-Khayr, Subhi Yaghi, and 'Ali al-'Abdallah, in addition to 'Atif (Jambeh), Lebanese Chamber of Deputies secretary general, and 'Abdallah Mu'awwad, head of the Chamber's Media and Public Relations Department.

Al-Husayni Meets Qaddurah

JN1906195390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Damascus—People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah today received the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies' delegation led by Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Hysayni. The meeting was attended by some People's Assembly members. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, they reviewed current issues and developments in the Lebanese arena, as well as efforts to end the Lebanese crisis, especially those exerted by Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad to deal with and solve this crisis and enable Lebanon to overcome its ordeal and return to normal in accordance with national accord and al-Ta'if agreement.

Al-Husayni and his delegation also expressed happiness at being in Syria as well as their pride in Syria, its people, and its principled pan-Arab positions under President Hafiz al-Asad. He also hailed Syria's great help to Lebanon's people, the twin of the Syrian people, to safely emerge from what they are suffering as a result of Israel's occupation of part of their land, as well as the current conflict among their sons. [passage omitted]

Discusses Damascus Ties

JN1906200690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The People's Assembly held a session this evening under Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah. The session was attended by Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and a number of ministers. The session was also attended by Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, and the accompanying parliamentary delegation. The fraternal delegation was welcomed with applause. The People's Assembly speaker delivered a speech welcoming the Lebanese delegation. [passage omitted]

Afterward, Lebanese Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni delivered an important speech in which he lauded President Hafiz al-Asad and extended congratulations to his excellency on behalf of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies on the election of the People's Assembly in its fifth legislative term. Al-Husayni affirmed the importance of the legislative institution in the exercise of democracy and achieving justice for the masses of the people. Talking about the Lebanese experience, he said: The great surprise is that the constitutional institution which held out throughout the years of the war was the Chamber of Deputies. It held fast in order to play its role in terminating the Lebanese ordeal. One of the most important domestic causes of this ordeal was paralyzing the role of the Chamber and preventing it from exercising its constitutional duty. Al-Husayni indicated that President Hafiz al-Asad referred in his opening speech at the fifth legislative term to the domestic dimension of the Lebanese problem and to the national reconciliation document approved by the Lebanese deputies.

Al-Husayni talked about the brotherly relations between Syria and Lebanon, quoting al-Asad as saying: Lebanon is an Arab country to which we are bound by the closest relations of kinship and the closest ties of history and geography.

Al-Husayni said what the Lebanese have agreed upon in al-Ta'if regarding the Lebanese-Syrian relations constitutes an important step in confronting the Lebanese ordeal in its both domestic and foreign dimensions. In light of that, al-Husayni called on the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and the Syrian People's Assembly to take practical steps to draw clear ideas and plans that help both governments to embody Lebanese-Syrian relations within clear agreements. Al-Husayni said it is in best interest of Syria—which, from its vanguard position, is

confronting the dangers posed to all Arabs—that a Lebanese state exists which is capable of taking part in bearing the burdens of this confrontation, instead of itself being a burden or a gap in this particular confrontation. Al-Husayni affirmed that al-Asad's Syria is aware of the Israeli dangers, confronts them unhesitatingly, encourages Arab solidarity, and supports national Lebanese resistance. He said Syria stands by the Lebanese state. He noted that the strength of this state depends on the sound understanding of the relationship that must bind Syria and Lebanon.

Received by Khaddam

JN2006065990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni in Damascus last night. Talks centered on the situation in Lebanon and ways to implement the national accord charter. Both sides shared the view that the national accord charter is the only possible solution to the Lebanese problem.

Mashariqah Returns After PRC Visit

JN1906195890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and deputy chairman of the National Progressive Front [NPF], returned to Damascus last night after a visit to the PRC lasting several days at the invitation of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. His accompanying delegation also returned.

During the visit, Dr. Mashariqah met with senior PRC officials led by President Yang Shangkun. NPF members Ahmad al-As'ad and Daniel Ni'amah, the Syrian ambassador to the PRC, and the members of the accompanying delegation attended the meeting. Talks centered on bilateral relations and the situation in the Arab region and the world at large. At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Mashariqah conveyed to President Yang Shangkun the greetings and best wishes of President Hafiz al-Asad. The PRC president also asked him to convey his greetings and best wishes to the president.

During his talks with the PRC president, Dr. Mashariqah stressed Syrian policy's firm principles and its position in the face of challenges threatening the Arab nation. He also affirmed that Syria would continue its struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territories as well as its unlimited support for the Palestinian people's intifadah in the occupied territories and its struggle to regain the Palestinian people's national rights and to confront the Jewish immigration. He also said that Syria demands the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Dr. Mashariqah also stressed that Syria is exerting efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis on the basis of the national accord document approved by the Lebanese deputies in al-Ta'if. He then gave voice to his thanks to the PRC for its support for the Arab liberation struggle and causes. President Yang Shangkun expressed his appreciation for Syria's role under President Hafiz al-Asad in the Arab region and international politics. He then stressed the PRC's firm support for the Arabs' just struggle to liberate their occupied territories and regain the Palestinian people's rights. He also expressed satisfaction with the development of the Syrian-PRC relations and said that the Arabs' struggle will achieve victory.

Dr. Mashariqah also met with the PRC premier and other PRC officials to discuss issues of common interest. He then met with Comrade Gu Mu, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and a number of the committee members to discuss ways to promote relations between the committee and the NPF in Syria. On this occasion, the two sides signed a cooperation and friendship agreement between the NPF and the PRC committee. [passage omitted]

Algerian Education Minister Departs 17 Jun

JN1706102690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Algerian Education Minister Mohamad al-Mili left Damascus for home early today following a week-long visit to Syria. During this visit, he headed the Algerian side in the meetings of the third session of the Syrian-Algerian joint committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. The meetings resulted in the signing of minutes to strenghen cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the various fields.

Afghanistan

Spokesman Welcomes Reopening of French Embassy

LD1806164490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] A spokesman for the Afghan Foreign Ministry, said the following concerning the reopening of French Embassy in Kabul:

The Republic of France has put into action its earlier decision connected with reopening its embassy in Kabul. A diplomatic mission from that country recently arrived in Kabul.

The Republic of Afghanistan warmly welcomes this action by the Government of France and considers it a realistic approach by that country. We hope that those other countries that ended their embassies' activities in Kabul on the eve of the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan will follow the example of the French Government by taking into account the transformation in the political-military situation in the country, the need to help the people of Afghanistan toward the political solution of the current conflicts in the country, will reopen their political representation in Kabul in order to obtain first-hand, reliable information about the development of the political situation in Afghanistan. Such an action will be effective step toward ending war and bloodshed in Afghanistan, insuring peace and stability in the region, the expansion of international cooperation and understanding, consolidation of international peace, and strengthening of friendship between Afghanistan and those countries.

Extremists 'Crushed' in Charikar City 17 Jun

LD1706150690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] The personnel of the state security of Parwan Province last night crushed a terrorist group in Charikar city.

According to a report by the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section, this group entered Charikar city in order to disrupt the peaceful life of the people, and were crushed with the all-round cooperation of the local people before being able to resort to any terrorist actions. Their arms and ammunition were also seized by the state security personnel in that province.

13 Missiles Fired at Kabul; One Injured

LD1706172390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Today extremists fired 13 surface-to-surface U.S. missiles and injured one Kabul citizen. BAKTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reports that these missiles, which were fired generally from westerly directions, landed on the residential areas of fifth and seventh wards and also caused financial damage.

The units and companies of Kabul Garrison General Command have carried out mopping-up activities and combat operations in some parts of Paghman district in order to prevent terrorist actions by the extremists. As a result of these activities 17 extremists, including a Saudi mercenary who had been firing U.S. missiles at residential areas of Kabul city, were killed and nine others were injured. During these activities four Kalashnikov's and a rocket launcher were seized by the Armed Forces, and two ammunition depots and 200 SAKR-type surface-to-surface missiles, a BM-1 and six Kalashnikovs were destroyed.

According to another report an extremist supply convoy was destroyed in the region of Pasha-e mountain, Paghman district, as a result of Armed Forces' air attack.

India

Tamil Conflict Spills Over From Sri Lanka

LTTE Camps Alleged in India

BK1906160490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1540 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Madras, India, June 19 (AFP)—India's main opposition party on Tuesday [19 June] accused the south Indian Tamil Nadu government of allowing Sri Lankan Tamil militants to run camps on its territory and demanded their removal. A member of former Premier Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party told reporters in Madras, capital of Tamil Nadu, that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)—the dominant Sri Lankan Tamil guerrilla group—were operating several bases in the state.

S.R. Balasubramanium of the Congress (I) said the Tiger militants were also training volunteers from a local Tamil party, the Dravidar Kazhagam (DK), in a bid to whip up secessionist activities in India. Mr. Balasubramanium, a member of the State Assembly, charged that the camps were operated with the knowledge of the police and urged the state government and the central government in New Delhi to intervene and dismantle them. He gave no figures or details but claimed that one of the camps was in Nemmakadu area in Coimatore District.

The state government headed by Muthuvel Karunanidhi, who earlier in the year unsuccessfully tried to forge unity among warring Sri Lankan Tamil factions, had denied the existence of Tamil militant bases in the state. Mr. Karunanidhi, currently in Delhi for talks, said Monday [18 June] that he shared the central government's view that India should not involve itself in the ongoing war in Sri Lanka. Many observers here said they saw the Congress (I) statements as part of a continuing effort to discredit his government, which in the past week arrested wounded Tigers who travelled to the state by sea for medical treatment. The arrested men were later reported to have escaped from custody.

The LTTE is currently battling Sri Lankan security forces in the island's northeast, separated by a narrow strip of sea from the Tamil Nadu coast, and wounded guerrillas are known to have arrived in Tamil Nadu for treatment. Sri Lankan Tamil guerrillas have maintained offices in Tamil Nadu, home to some 55 million Tamils with close cultural and liguistic links to Sri Lankan Tamils, who form a minority in the island.

In New Delhi, the Congress (I) expressed concern over what it call "genocide of Tamils" and called Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh a "helpless bystander" as Colombo continued a drive against Tamil guerrillas.

While prime minister, Mr. Gandhi, the Congress (I) leader, ordered massive crackdown by Indian troops on Sri Lankan Tamil guerrillas after they refused to surrender arms in line with a July 1987 bilateral peace pact. Thousands of Tamil militants and civilians, as well as some 1,200 Indian troops, died during the offensive, which failed to completely disarm the guerrillas.

New Delhi withdrew its troops in March. Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa ordered them to leave after opening talks with the Tigers.

14 Killed in Shooting of Tamil Leaders

BK2006034490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] The general secretary of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front [EPRLF], K. Padmanabha, and 13 others of the front were gunned by unidentified gunmen at Kodampakkam in Madras yesterday. Those killed include the former Northeastern Provincial Council finance minister, Kirubakaran. Ten other persons were also injured. The Tamil Nadu home secretary told our Madras correspondent that the assailants arrived in a car and opened fire with sophisticated rifles on the EPRLF cadres who had assembled for a meeting. A task force under the leadership of the state's director general of police has been set up to apprehend the assailants. Security at the refugee camps has been strengthened and the coast guards personnel have been requisitioned to search for the militants in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu.

The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, has ordered the arrest of all Sri Lankan Tamil militants based in the state to prevent further bloodshed following the dastardly murder of EPRLF leaders. In a statement, he deplored the killing and said he has directed the state police to nab the culprits responsible for the incident. Recalling the talks he had held with the various Sri Lankan Tamil groups last year to end inter-group rivalries, Mr. Karunanidhi regretted that the militants have now carried the warfare even to Tamil Nadu. Mr. Karunanidhi said he had known Mr. Padmanabha for many years. He expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Crackdown on Tamils Follows

BK2006074190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0710 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Excerpt] New Delhi, June 20 (AFP)—Authorities in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu cracked down on Sri Lankan Tamil militant groups Tuesday night [19 June], rounding up some 390 people after a massacre in Madras city which left 14 dead and 22 injured. Gunmen shot dead 13 members of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Front (EPRLF), a Sri Lankan Tamil militant group, at an EPRLF office in Madras. Among the dead was the group's 39-year-old secretary-general K. Padmanabha.

In New Delhi, Tamil Nadu State Chief Minister Muthuvel Kurunanidhi told journalists there were signs that the powerful rival Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), now battling Sri Lankan troops in the island's predominantly Tamil northeast, were responsible for the killings.

Official sources in Madras told the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) that the mass arrests had taken place in Madras city, Chengai-Anna and Salem. They followed state government orders issued Tuesday night to round up and disarm all Sri Lankan militants in the state, regardless of which group they belonged to.

Mr. Kurunanidhi confirmed the 390 arrests, and said that some 15 to 20 were suspected to be members of the LTTE, a bitter rival of the EPRLF whose leader is reported to have fled to Mauritius to escape assassination.

The chief minister, a Tamil, who earlier in the year had unsuccessfully tried to reunite the bitterly warring Sri Lankan militant groups, also said he had discussed the incident with Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh and other Indian leaders late Tuesday night.

Security in the state was being beefed up to prevent any further incidents, he said, but denied charges levelled Tuesday by the Indian opposition that the LTTE still retained training camps in Tamil Nadu. [passage omitted]

390 Tamils Arrested

BK2006082090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, over 390 Sri Lanka Tamil militants belonging to various groups have been taken into custody following the killing of several EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] members in Madras yesterday evening. The state director general of police, Mr. P. Durai, told our Madras correspondents that the arrested included seven members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. He said the bulk of the arrests were from Tiruchchirappalli, Tanjavur, Madras, and Ramanathapuram areas.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the shoot out incident has risen to 16 with two more persons succumbing to injuries in the hospital. Of the killed 14, including two women,

belonged to EPRLF and another two were local residents. The bodies of EPRLF leader, Mr. Padmanabha and others are kept at the Government General Hospital mortuary in Madras.

The state government has intensified patrolling throughout the state to nab the killers. The police force at the refugee camps has been strengthened and the coast guards requisitioned to look out for the militants in the coastal areas.

The chief minister, Mr. Karunanidhi, who is now in New Delhi left for Madras this morning. He has sanctioned 15 lakh rupees from the chief minister's relief fund for the members of the famiiies of those killed in the shoot out. He toid newsmen before his departure that he has discussed the shooting incident with the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, and other leaders. The leader of the Congress-I legislature party in the Tamil Nadu assembly, Mr. G.K. Moopanar, has expressed shock at the gunning down of several Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front members.

More Arrests Reported

BK2006091490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Excerpt] In Tamil Nadu, more than 600 Sri Lankan Tamil militants belonging to various groups have been rounded up in the wake of yesterday's killing of several Eelam People's Revolutionary Front members in Madras. Police sources said that 110 militants were taken into custody in Madras city. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Calls for Hostilities' End

BK2006035090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] India has called for the immediate cessation of hostilities in Sri Lanka. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi last evening that India has been watching with deep concern the recent escalation of violence in the island. He said democratic process should be restored in an atmosphere freed of violence and intimidation so that the legitimate aspirations of the Tamils are met within the constitutional framework of Sri Lanka. The spokesman urged both sides to avoid excessive use of force and take special care to prevent the loss of civilian lives. He said reports of the use of chemical weapons are disturbing.

Earlier, the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, held a meeting with several chief ministers and leaders of the national Front and its supporting parties in New Delhi last evening to discuss the developments in Sri Lanka. The meeting expressed concern over the escalation of hostilities between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan forces and hoped that the problem would be resolved peacefully through a dialogue.

Kashmir 'Terrorist' Killed; Town Curfew Declared

BK1806161590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] In Kashmir Valley, a dreaded terrorist of the outlawed Hezbul Mujahidin, Abdullah Bange, and a Punjab terrorist were killed in separate encounters with the security forces today. The dreaded terrorist was killed in Rambagh locality of Srinagar. He was wanted in connection with several terrorist killings, including the murder of former legislator, Mir Mustafa.

Meanwhile, curfew was imposed in Bhadarwah town of Jammu region this morning following two bomb blasts at a place of worship.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Holds News Conference

LD1906214290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1735 GMT 19 Jun 90

[News conference by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani with unidentified domestic correspondents in Mashhad on 18 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [correspondent] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Your Excellency, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in your speeches you talked about the expansion of contacts with the Soviet Union and its Muslim-inhabited republics. When will these contacts start and in which fields will they be and what plans has the government got to bring about the necessary changes and reforms in the border towns of Khorasan Province to cope with these contacts?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This work has two sides to it. On the one side which concerns us, we are completely prepared. We have also signed an agreement. We have also identified certain spots which will be the points for the exchange of goods and the movement of people. A number of points have also been identified in Khorasan Province. We are truly anxious to have contacts with our Muslim brothers and sisters on the other side of the border. They are also interested. The Soviet Government has so far also shown real cooperation and has demonstrated its goodwill. We have a number of agreements [with the Soviet Union], and this is one of our agreements. So far, we are pleased with its progress. Of course, it will be better if it is carried out more speedily. I think Khorasan should prepare itself for providing a cultural response to these new forces, which will come into contact with us [as heard]. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] My last question is not about the province. It concerns the country as a whole. One of the most important factors for the success of the Five-Year Plan is the existence of coordination between the executive and the executive departments with [with those who are in charge of implementing] the plan. What serious plans are being prepared by the government in this regard and are

there any means of evaluating the work of the managers at various junctures in the implementation of the programs entrusted to them, or are there no such plans?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes, one of our important tasks in the cabinet meetings has been to supervise the implementation of the plan, in a number of meetings so far. For instance, we have had a number of sessions studying the requirements of the plan, the physical requirements of the plan, such as building material. We have made a study and we have come to the conclusion that we require six million tonnes of steel for implementing the plan during the current year; or, we require a very large number of machines. We have studied these, we have looked at our capabilities. We have divided them between various organizations so that we can provide them with those things at proper times.

We have also looked at the human resources. We have decided there should be complete supervision at definite intervals. Everyone should submit a report about the steps which he has taken in the implementation of the plan. A group of people will study those, and if any place is behind the plan we will help them. Of course, basically this is the responsibility of the plan organization. It should supervise all the projects and should report every stage being done now. Usually, important plans are brought to my notice at definite junctures, and if necessary I raise the issue in the cabinet. The government is making every effort so that the plan is implemented. Our limitations are these executive facilities, which we should provide. [as heard]

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, Mr. President, please let us know what is the place of military purchases and the equipping of the defense system of the country in the Five-Year Plan?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Regarding military purchases we have an allocation of 10 billion dollars in the Five-Year Plan, about 10 billion dollars for the five years, which is for the provision of our needs from abroad. However, we should do the major work inside the country. During the war we succeeded in providing a powerful basis for our military industries. I think in the Third World, the strongest and the most comprehensive military industries are in Iran, from every point of view. Of course, at the moment, we do not intend to reveal our facts and figures and our industries. However, in every field which we feel is necessary we have a successful industry, or an industry in the course of implementation. The main work is being performed by our industries, and the work of purchasing is within the limits of this 10 billion [currency not specified]. Of course, it is not necessary for all facets of the military issues to be included in the plan. That is extra work, and at any time it is needed we can make use of the leader who is himself the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, or the Expediency Discernment Council. Many of these issues are secret. We cannot raise this issue in the open session of the Majles from an open podium, and say what we wish to purchase or what quantities we wish to purchase. The figure we have officially designated is the one which is in the plan, but we will maintain the priority of this sector as much as is needed.

[Corrspondent] My next question is: What is the situation regarding the cash flow of the country for effectively confronting all the economic tricks of the hoarders and the capitalists?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The cash flow?

[Correspondent] Yes.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Our cash flow in terms of rials is extremely good. Never since the victory of the revolution until now has the situation of the treasury and the deposits in our banks been as good as it is now. This is due to two basic factors: One is that people's confidence has been to some extent strengthened and the people have returned their capital to the banks; this shows a very interesting figure. The second point is that through the sale of foreign exchange at a higher rate than the official rate we have succeeded in making a great deal of money. I [as heard] have no payment problem as regards rial allocations. Of course, we can pay what the Majles has approved. If there is need for the payment of any sums in rials, and if we need to receive legal approval [from the Majles], the government is able to pay. Regarding foreign exchange, we have certain limitations because the plan demands from us twice as much [in foreign currency payments] as last year. However, this limitation is not something that might paralyze us, but at the same time we do not have a sufficiently free hand. We should act with caution, because we do not wish to be hampered by indebtedness and so on. We should make agreements for projects which they [not further specified] come and implement and then receive some of its output later. We do not wish to be directly in debt.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, in all your speeches addressed to people in different cities, to university students and staff and to seminarians, you emphasized people's cooperation with officials; and emphasized people themselves should carry out many of the tasks. I wanted to know your excellency's own present assessment of this cooperation and the way people are going about doing their work in this way. Moreover, in the Khorasan Province, our chief problem—one of the problems—is narcotics [trafficking], which has had a very adverse effect on people's lives. Please, would you tell us if the government has any specific programs regarding this problem?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] First, regarding people's cooperation, really, people are ready to cooperate, especially lately when they are more confident about investing. We have to facilitate ways in which people can cooperate, and I said one of the things we must give people is building material or machine-tools because if people do not have these things they cannot invest. They may like to build something, which takes a very long time; they cannot find products in the free market and it becomes difficult to get things done. Our policy is to provide the means for them—the agriculture sector is a vast arena, as is the mining sector, then

there is the cultural sector with gymnasiums, movies, theaters, and things—well, people have to enter these arenas and invest in them. We, too, must facilitate things for them to do this with. Of course this must be done in a healthy manner. They should not pursue these tasks with exhortationist intentions, but rather with intentions to serve, and they should possess righteous principles. We should not be narrow-minded and should let them have their profit [sud]; let them be constructive. The government should protect them and there should be no injustice directed at people in this process.

Regarding narcotics, the plans are being followed very seriously. The headquarters for combatting narcotics is active and more narcotics smugglers are being cornered each day. This is not a domestic issue [jarian], it is an international one. They are being supported and have places where they take refuge outside the country. We must gradually tighten the noose around their necks abroad as well. I am, up to now, satisfied with the progress of the work.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, Mr. President, regarding the latest letters from Iraq and the Islamic Republic's replies and the likelihood of direct negotiations, are the invitation to the UN secretary general and his imminent visit to the region designed to prepare the ground for these negotiations or is it the continuation of his activities? What is the trend of the peace talks at the moment?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You see, the axis of our work is the resolution [UN Resolution 598]. The resolution is a good axis for solving the problems at the core of our dispute and the secretary general is responsible for this task. We do not want the resolution or the secretary general to be weakened with the direct talks issue, or to stop that trend and slacken it. If direct talks speed up and strengthen that trend, then they could be beneficial but if they weaken it, this may bring major harm to the peace. We have therefore requested his excellency, the secretary general that he continue his work speedily and well; that the former course should not be forgotten; since it was the Iraqi Government that proposed direct negotiations with us, we have not closed this course either, but we do have a major condition. This is what we have written in our letters. We have written: This meeting will take place when all the preliminary steps have been prepared in such a way that the meeting would reach a final decision. If the leaders of the countries are to meet and fail in their talks and produce arguments, then there may be a danger of the resumption of war, because, after that there is nothing that can solve the problems. So, we will not take the risk [preceding word in English] of having a meeting of dubious outcome. When we have prepared the ground, this peace is valuable enough for us to have these talks and we will have talks. Right now too, our representatives and those of Iraq are involved in talks to prepare the grounds for the meeting.

[Correspondent] Excuse me, in your speech last night to university students and staff your excellency warned against emotional and slogan-ridden confrontations with problems. Could you please tell us what effect these kinds of confrontations have in the trend of the government's moves along the Five-Year Plan? Do you see problems such as obstructionism in this regard?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] No, I am not saying that they should not be chanting slogans. Slogans should exist in any revolutionary movement—slogans, emotion, excitement, stimulation—these are things which arouse people. You cannot conduct the struggle without slogans and we, too, are in the process of struggle and the revolutionary and slogan-chanting spirit must certainly be preserved. What I was saying to the university students and staff was that, in addition to their slogan-chanting alongside the people, their principal duties are to science and to the construction of the country. These are the chief problems of our country now and I think that the science and technical sectors of the country are behind the rest of the sectors. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, you referred recently to the fall of inflation. Please let us know when will the fall in the price of foodstuffs and basic goods be felt in the country?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You see, we have announced and formulated ways and means and specific solutions for solving this problem and we are clear about this. We have kept subsidies so that people may purchase their essential goods at the same subsidized prices. The situation regarding basic goods will be as in the past. Therefore, there is no worry in this regard.

In order to reduce inflation, we have two basic factors, two important levers. One is to attract the capital in the hands of the people, which is a major factor for creating inflation. The second is that we should produce goods and put them at the disposal of the people. You all know the way that I operate. I have given priority to activating factories and to agricultural centers, and I have provided them with all their needs, as much as has been possible. In other words, I have given them as much foreign exchange as they required. They either receive foreign exchange at the government rate and will sell goods at subsidized prices, or receive export rates or competitive rates whose price would be free of government restriction or subsidy.

The result has been that we have attracted a great deal of money, more than 200 billion tuman up till now, and many goods are being presented in the market; and this is only the beginning of the work. In most cases, the prices in the free market have been reduced. Of course, we do not think that we should return to the old government prices in free commodities. We think that they should have a fair price which may produce profits for the producers in the usual way. [passage omitted]

Commentary Urges Expansion of ECO Cooperation

LD1906131290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1058 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Greetings. The first ministerial session on the regional economic cooperation, ECO, [Economic Cooperation Organization] underlined the necessity of expanding trilateral cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], Pakistan, and Turkey, in its closing session in Islamabad. In that session, a protocol on the amendment clauses from the Izmir accord were signed by the participating delegations. That will lay the groundwork for the expansion of future cooperation, and in that respect the member countries have in their first session succeeded in taking a practical step forward by agreeing to increase the number of the organization's committees, from four to seven. The setting-up of committees on economic, commercial, agricultural, industrial, technical, scientific, educational, cultural, energy, transportation, communications, and infrastructural cooperation, at the relevant ministerial and deputy ministerial level—as a step toward the expansion of trilateral cooperations—were agreed upon by the delegations participating in the session. At the same time, it should be noted that the further consolidation of the ECO whose member countries share common historical and cultural bonds, depends on greater effort by the members. In that direction, the member countries, by having over 200 million Muslims, possess the most significant factors for an alliance, hence the implementation of extensive activities and cooperation between the three countries of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey is feasible, in various forms.

Moreover, in addition to the existence of common historical and cultural bonds between the ECO member countries, economic exchanges between the third world countries could be highly regarded and evaluated in terms of international economy. On that basis, the rapid developments in the Third World especially in the Islamic countries, and the cooperation established between them, could alleviate the pressures resulting from the economic relations between the northern and southern countries. It should be added that the expansion of the ECO by bringing in new members under that organization's regulations, could lead to a more active role in the regional developments. Moreover, the promotion of a higher level of officials for the participation in that organization's sessions will strengthen the foundations of the ECO, hence the manifestation of more serious cooperation. This issue, which was reiterated by Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the head of the Iranian delegation participating in that session, will bring about the consolidation and the deepening of the relations between the members. In any case, in view of the existing cooperation between the ECO member countries, and their desire for the expansion of relations, as well as the planning of consecutive sessions at close intervals, it seems that the ECO will be able to play a more active role, not only in the economic and political exchanges between the member countries, but also in the regions in the near future.

Envoy to Turkey Protests 'Obscene' Movie 19 Jun

LD1906085990 Tehran IRNA in English 0702 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Ankara, June 19, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Turkey lodged a strong protest with Turkish Foreign Ministry on Monday [18 June] against the screening of the obscene film, 'The Naked Gun'.

Ambassador Mohammad Reza Bagheri lodged the protest in a meeting with acting Foreign Minister Tugai Uzceri.

The Iranian diplomat called on the Turkish Government to take measures to stop showing of the film in cinemas in Istanbul and Ankara. The obscene film which insults the Islamic Republic has been on screen since last Friday [15 June].

Turkish Charge Summoned

LD1906124890 Tehran IRNA in English 1119 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 19, IRNA—Turkish charge d'affaires to Tehran Mofit Ozdas was summoned to the Foreign Ministry here Tuesday morning and informed of Iran's protest against screening of the obscene film 'The Naked Gun' in Turkey. Expressing Iran's discontent with the film, the Ministry also called for measures to stop further screening of the film in Turkish cinemas. The film, on screen in Turkish cinemas since last Friday [15 June], has impudently insulted the late leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni.

ABRAR Urges Expulsion of Turkish Diplomat

LD1906125490 Tehran IRNA in English 0952 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 19, IRNA—The Persian daily 'ABRAR' in a commentary Tuesday called on the Foreign Ministry to expell Turkish charge d'affaires Mofit Ozdas who attempted to "smuggle out" Iranian antique objects abusing his diplomatic immunity. Three weeks ago Ozdas was seized by border guards when attempting to smuggle out of Iran priceless antiques some dating back to 850 years ago, it was reported Sunday [17 June]. He is presently functioning at his post at the Turkish Embassy in Tehran.

The commentary said, "The Iranian Muslim nation collectively demand the responsible political authorities of the country, including the Foreign Ministry, to deal with the issue seriously." It added, "this smuggler who shamelessly and impudently continues to work at the Turkish Embassy should be expelled from the Islamic...land."

Following the incident the Turkish press in a bid to cover up the illegal act of the Turkish diplomat [mounted] a vigorous propaganda campaign against the Islamic Republic and claimed at the same time that the antiques were Ozdas' personal belongings and that he has been manhandled by border guards.

"In the Islamic Iran all foreign nations in general, diplomatic missions in particular are treated as guests," said ABRAR. However, "whenever they try to disregard the rights of the host country, the Iranian nation, government and dutiful authorities are decisive to treat them accordingly [as received]," added the daily.

It said it is becoming "of a country which attaches moral value to its dependence on the West and defies Islam...to allow a smuggler to disguise as a diplomat and take out cultural heritage of a nation."

ABRAR Criticizes Government Currency Policy

NC1906174990 Paris AFP in English 1731 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] TEHERAN, June 19 (AFP)—A leading Iranian daily [19 June] Tuesday slammed a central bank's decision to issue a new exchange rate for the dollar saying it would have a "negative impact" on consumer goods. The criticism was the latest of its kind against the policies of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who has vowed to liberalise Iran's economy.

Iran's Central Bank on Saturday [16 June] issued a "semi-official" rate of 1.270 riyals to the U.S. dollar for licensed importers, against the official rate of 70 riyals to the greenback—which is the rate set aside for the general public.

"The new upward trend of the dollar on the market will have a negative impact on consumer goods," ABRAR said.

"An economic policy based on several foreign currency rates has negative effects on the value of the riyal and will weaken it," it warned.

There are four distinct rates for the dollar in Iran, besides the official rate and Saturday's new "semi-official" one. A "competitive" rate of 800 riyals to the dollar is set aside for entreprises which need to purchase abroad raw materials. Students enrolled in universities overseas and people needing hospital treatment abroad take advantage of a "service" rate set at 840 ryals to the dollar. Authorised dealers can trade the dollar at 1.385 to the greenback while on the blackmarket it can bring as much as 1.400.

Mashhad Prisoners Start Riot; 9 Die 15 Jun

LD1906173290 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., June 19, IRNA—Nine prisoners who started a riot in the central prison of Mashhad were killed and several others wounded during a clash with the wardens and disciplinary forces last Friday [15 June], a prison spokesman said here today.

He said some of the imprisoned drug traffickers started a riot by setting fire to the prison's belongings, in order to prepare the ground for their escape.

'However, rapid reaction of the wardens and disciplinary forces thwarted their plan, and the situation returned to normal again in less than three hours,' he said.

Noting that none of the prisoners could escape, the spokesman said the prison would be ready for regular meetings between the inmates and their relatives as of next Saturday [23 June].

Afghan Rebel Coalition Renamed Islamic Unity Party

LD1706013190 Tehran IRNA in English 1854 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA—The Tehran-based nine-party coalition of the Afghan mujahidin has been renamed as the 'Islamic Unity Party'.

"I hope that the formation of the party would help unification of all the Shi'ite and Sunni forces in Afghanistan," said the representative of the supreme religious jurisprudent (Vali-e Faqih) in Afghanistan affairs, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Ibrahimi at the ceremony today.

The spokesman for the party Abdul 'Ali Mazari in return expressed his gratitude to the Iranian officials and called for the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue its support for the Afghan jihad against the Marxist regime in Kabul.

Also attending the ceremony were the representative of the leader of the Islamic revolution, leaders of the Peshawar-based mujahidin, a number of Iranian officials as well as members of the Central Council of the Islamic Unification Party.

Velayati Meets Afghan Rebel Leaders

LD1706013290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] The second joint session of leaders of Afghan mojahedin groups, comprised of officials of the Islamic Unity Party, the leader of Afghanistan's Jamiyat-e Eslami, and leaders of independent jihad groups, was held in the presence of Mr. Velayati, the foreign minister, Saturday evening [16 June] prior to departure for Pakistan for consultations with the leaders of mujadin resident in Peshawar.

In the meeting, first, Mr. Velayati expressed pleasure about the joint session of leaders of various Afghan groups and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran considers it its duty to support the Muslim people of Afghanistan under any circumstances, because the Islamic Republic of Iran, in obedience to Islam, considers itself a refuge for all under-privileged and oppressed Muslims and deems it a duty to continue its support for Afghan mojahedin and for all the Muslims of the world.

The foreign minister continued by saying: The Islamic Republic of Iran hopes that the Afghan mojahedin brothers, in a united and strong association comprised of all strata, will bring their views ever closer to one another.

According to the Central News Unit, in the meeting, Mr. Rabbani, the leader of Afghanistan's Jamiyat-e Eslami, for his part, welcomed the holding of coordination sessions between Afghan mojahedin groups; described closeness between all the groups and unity of opinion as the only way of achieving the goal, and said: The mojahedin must always maintain the initiative. Referring to the sensitivity of the Afghan issue in current circumstances, he also stressed: What should be kept in view with regard to the future of Afghanistan is the provision of justice, national unity, and a broad government.

In the session, Mr. Mazari, the spokesman for Afghanistan's Islamic Unity Party, thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its stance and, stressing the importance and effectiveness, for the mojahedin inside Afghanistan, of coordination and convergence of views between the groups, said: Islamic belief and the united opinion of the people led to the defeat of the Russians in Afghanistan, and what is required for the ultimate victory of the mojahedin is the maintenance of that unity of opinion.

The session continued with Mr. Mawlawi Manzur stressing the importance of those two unities [of Islamic belief and opnion] among Afghan groups, and describing unity as the most effective factor for the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan. He called for close cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan toward that end.

Then, each of the participants expressed their views about recent developments in the Afghan issue. In conclusion, a joint communique was issued by the participants in which the need for unity between all the mojahedin for the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan was stressed.

Participating mojahedin also condemned all the plots and ploys of the superpowers and enemies of Islam, stressed the need for the maintenance of national sovereignty and for the non-interference of the superpowers in Afghanistan, and called for the unity and solidarity of all mojahedin.

Rabbani: Meeting 'Positive Effort'

LD1706211990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Burhanuddin Rabbani, one of the leaders of the Afghan mujahed groups based in Peshawar, Pakistan, said in an interview with our reporter as he was leaving Tehran, that the recent meeting of Afghan mujahed groups with the Islamic Unity Party [IUP] in Tehran was a positive effort toward greater unity for the purposes of confronting international conspiracies and the struggle against the puppet government of Kabul. Mazari, spokesman for the IUP, also, considered that the review of the latest developments and the proposed election plans of the IUP were among issues which were going to be discussed in the next meeting of the leaders of Afghan mujahed groups in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Commentary on Arab Summit, Peace Talks

NC1806203690 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 7 Jun 90 p 16

[Political commentary by A. Marvi: "The Arab Summit Conference and the Iran-Iraq Peace Talks"]

[Excerpts] The extraordinary session of the heads of Arab states ended last Wednesday in Baghdad on the eve of the U.S.-Soviet summit with the adoption of 10 resolutions and one communique. This conference was convened after months of diplomatic efforts; at the request of the PLO, Iraq, and Jordan; and in the absence of five Arab leaders. [passage omitted]

A glance at the resolution of the extraordinary session in Baghdad—which reflects the stance of 16 Arab countries—indicates that the "unanimous Arab stance" on the Arab-Israeli conflict was absent from the conference, in contrast to previous sessions held by Arab leaders, and this is a significant defeat for the Baghdad conference.

The non-participation by the Syrian leader in the above conference blocked the path to any unanimous decision on an Arab-Israeli peace trend, especially on the eve of the Bush-Gorbachev summit. [passage omitted]

It is Washington's political tradition in the Middle East that only in the event of a collective and unanimous stance on the part of the Arabs is it prepared to pave the way for talks between Israel and the Arab countries and to embark on the solution to this longstanding problem with the cooperation of the Soviet Union.

Washington and Israel stand to gain from the continuation of the cold war between the Arabs and Israel, and with a cold peace between Egypt and the Zionist regime. Only in the event of a collective Arab stance on a resolution of the dispute are they willing to initiate peace talks. Thus with the nonparticipation of the five Arab leaders, the Baghdad conference faced defeat.

However, I wish to air my opinions on that part of the final resolution which pertains to the issues of Iran and Iraq:

The outcome of the Baghdad conference and the performance of the Iraqi regime as its director reveals the expansionist tendencies of this regime with regard to the eastern borders of the Arab world and the lack of any sincere inclination for in-depth constructive talks with Iran regarding the resolution of the Persian Gulf dispute.

During the past few months, especially since the Iraqi foreign minister left for talks with the UN secretary general in New York and refrained from making a decision on the time and place for the new round of intensive talks and a long-term peace accord with Iran stressed by the UN Security Council, international pressure against Iraq increased. This pressure manifested itself in the form of a strain in relations between Iraq and the West, in particular with the United States and Great Britain.

Iraq began criticizing U.S. policy in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, and the West responded by expressing its apprehension about Iraq's military and political flights of fancy, and references to its performance in the field of human rights. Iraq was under pressure on two accounts:

1. An actual possibility of a preemptive attack by Israel at the very foundation of Iraq's military strength.

2. Increase in international support—especially by the UN Security Council—of Iran's conciliatory attitude toward Resolution 598 and peace talks and Iraq's waning diplomatic strength in these talks.

On the basis of the above, and with its stance on the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel, which has shaken the whole Arab world, Iraq adopted a peace-seeking policy in the region: This policy included two letters to Iranian leaders expressing its inclination to initiate border talks with Kuwait [as published]; making a peace initiative toward Saudi Arabia by making concessions on the price of oil within the OPEC and outside it; dispatching an Iraqi minister to Syria to invite Hafiz al-Asad to the conference in Baghdad; suspending anti-Syrian and anti-Iranian propaganda for a while, and so on. All these were part of this policy. [passage omitted]

Iraq's true stance on peace with Iran was revealed in the final communique of the Baghdad conference which was to be reflected in the superpowers' summit in Washington. In this way Iraq sought to prove that the Security Council faces the collective stance of at least 15 Arab states on the issue of Iraq's territorial claims on the Arvand River.

Even though this stance conflicts with the overt and covert stances of the Persian Gulf countries which consider any expansionism on the part of Iraq as opposed to their long-term interests, it was still a simple but effective tactic. Perhaps if Iran had postponed answering Iraq's letter until after the Arab summit this tactic of Iraq would have met with total defeat. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran's insistence that all talks with Iraq should be within the framework of Resolution 598 and the secretary general's plan will serve to prevent Iraq from attaining its objective.

Any talks with Iraq outside the framework of Resolution 598 will be dangerous and futile. This will decrease international support for the implementation of the resolution and will be detrimental to Iran. [passage omitted]

Neither the Iraqi regime nor the Arabs are in favor of peace with Iran. The depth of the events in the past few months indicates that at a time when the Arab world is ostensibly in the throes of anti-Israeli propaganda, the priorities of Baghdad and its allies in their efforts are to pave the way for peace with the Zionist regime by creating a strategic equilibrium with Iraq at the center.

President Addresses Mashhad Seminary Group

LD1806202190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, the president attended a gathering of clerics, students, and instructors at Mashhad's religious seminary, and described the important role of the clergy in victory of the Islamic revolution, in confronting the enemies' conspiracies, and in safeguarding the achievements of the revolution.

The president pointed to the fact that one of the most honest and important centers for transformation are the young seminary students. He stressed that through their presence on the scenes, these unknown soldiers of the Lord of the Age—may God hasten his return—have acted as the strongest and most effective sword in the hands of the leadership. In future, too, the main foundations of the revolution will be shaped among that group.

He then pointed to the role of clergy in executive affairs, saying: Today Islam and the clergy are being tested by the people and by God. The world, too, has become very sensitive to this issue. He recalled: We are witnessing two forces working against the clergy. One is global blasphemy, and the other is those internal elements who believe in an Islam without the clergy. We must do a lot of work because we are carrying a mountain of responsibility on our shoulders.

*Produce Prices Rise 25 to 40 Percent

90AS0094H London KEYHAN in Persian 24 May 90 p 4

[Text] This year, the prices of produce and fruit have gone up 25 to 40 percent compared with last summer's prices. Dealers and intermediaries do not pay any attention to the sporadic price fixing by municipality agents.

The prices of some of the fruits and produce printed by Tehran newspapers during the second week of Ordibehesht [21 April-21 May] are as follows:

Grade A Orange	600 rials per kilo
Grade A Apple	600 rials per kilo
Mahbubi Watermelon	200 rials per kilo
Cucumber	450 rials per kilo
Tomato	600 rials per kilo
Lettuce	300 rials per kilo
Onion	900 rials per kilo
Peas	600 rials per kilo

The daily ABRAR wrote: "Due to high prices, people are not able to purchase fruits even once per month."

*Import Volume To Reach 20 Million Tons

90AS0094G London KEYHAN in Persian
24 May 90 p 4

[Text] In the aftermath of the opening of the nation's customs' gates for the import of foreign goods, the Islamic Republic's Customs [Office] announced that it is prepared to cover up to 40 million tons of import and export goods annually.

During a recent press interview, the head of the Islamic Republic's Customs [Office] announced that, in view of the need for capital and intermediate goods for the Five-Year Plan, it is estimated that the volume of imports will reach 20 million tons during the current year.

The said official added: "As a result of this, in order to make the required adjustments in the export-import regulations, the government has delegated more authority to the country's commercial sector."

According to reports from Tehran, according to the new authorities delegated to the Customs [Office] by the government, goods needed by governmental organizations—if recommended by the highest executive authority of the beneficiary organization—will be released from Customs without lengthy procedure and the customs procedure will be concluded after the release of the goods. In regard to the private sector, the Iranian Customs [Office] will release the goods speedily if the owners of the imported goods post deposits."

In another part of his interview, the head of the the Islamic Republic's Customs [Office] said: "According to forecasts by the Islamic Consultative Majles, based on the study of the Non-Oil Export Law, the annual volume of exports will increase by 3.5 times."

*Social Ills Attributed to Afghan Refugees

90AS0094F London KEYHAN in Persian
24 May 90 p 4

[Text] "Many of the social ills and difficulties are a result of the presence of thousands of Afghan refugees. In order to alleviate these problems, the plan for the identification of Afghans will be implemented. Violators and those who commit crimes will be sent to camps and the corrupt and unruly elements from among the Afghans will be deported from the country."

The above was stated by the governor-general of Khorasan Province, in connection with preparations for the implementation of the plan for the adjustment of Afghan refugees by the Supreme Security Council. According to this plan, some of the Afghan refugees settled in the province of Khorasan will be transferred to other provinces.

The governor-general of Khorasan, participating in a press interview, announced that presently over 650,000 Afghan refugees are stationed all across Khorasan Province of which 450,000 have been identified and the rest are still without identification cards.

This official added: "During the current year, in addition to the establishment of two camps, four guest facilities, with a total capacity of over 130,000 people, will be built for Afghans in the boarder towns of Khorasan province."

While mentioning the spread of drug smuggling in the eastern parts of the country, the governor-general of Khorasan said: "Most of the narcotics distributed in the country are smuggled through the eastern regions. The Joint Security Councils of Khorasan, Sistan va Baluchestan, and Kerman provinces will take appropriate action to confront smugglers and insurgents."

*World Bank Examines Loan Feasibility

90AS0094E London KEYHAN in Persian
24 May 90 p 4

[Text] In order to fulfill its foreign exchange requirements which have been forecast in the Five-Year Reconstruction Plan, the Islamic Republic seeks to borrow from various world financial centers such as the International Monetary Fund.

Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, director general of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic, who recently traveled to Washington to participate in the sessions of the IMF and the World Bank and, also, the ministerial meeting of the IMF's Group 24, during a radio interview, in response to a reporter's question that "Has the Islamic Republic taken any measures to borrow from the International Monetary Fund?" said: "No definite step has been taken in this regard."

He added: "However, if deemed necessary, Iran will defend its right in this regard." In another part of his press interview, the director general of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic said: "It has been estimated that, during the current Five-Year Plan, Iran has the need for 17 billion dollars in foreign resources which will be secured through various ways including bilateral agreements."

The director general of the Central Bank of Iran claimed that no action is being taken in order to determine a method to make the necessary arrangements for reducing the value of the rial in relation to foreign exchanges.

An expert familiar with Iran's economic and financial matters told KEYHAN's correspondent that, although the Islamic Republic—despite all its efforts—has not been successful in borrowing from the IMF, but, considering its dire foreign exchange needs, the economic leaders of the regime will continue to press forward with their efforts. Apparently, IMF officials have said that in case their current studies about the economic conditions of Iran bear positive results and Iran agrees to conform to conditions for obtaining loans from the Fund, this financial source will study the possibility of extending loans to the Islamic Republic.

In regard to extending loans to the Islamic Republic, the chairman of the World Bank, Conable, said that bank

officials are presently preparing a special report regarding Iran's economic condition. He added: "The World Bank is interested in having active and effective cooperation with the Islamic Republic in regard to the implementation of structural plans."

Also, the chairman of the International Monetary Fund, Condessus, announced that the report [prepared] by the Fund indicates that the Islamic Republic has the capability to solve its economic problems and this financial institution is willing to provide the Islamic Republic with technical help and consultations in areas needed by the Islamic Republic.

Reports from the Islamic Republic indicate that, as discussions between the director general of the Central Bank and officials of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund continue in Washington, the value of Iranian currency, the rial, compared to valuable foreign currencies continues to decline rapidly. By the end of last week, the value of the rial in Tehran's black market reached its lowest point since the acceptance of Resolution 598 by the Islamic Regime. The daily Tehran newspaper KEYHAN, in its 6 May 90 issue, wrote: "The increasing trend in the values of major foreign currencies in Tehran's free market, which began 10 days ago, continues. Around noon yesterday, 5 May 90, dollar and mark currencies were traded at 1,405 and 830 rials respectively."

This newspaper added: "The value of foreign exchange in Shiraz increased more steeply compared to Tehran, and the dollar was traded at 1,410 rials." During the early part of last week, the dollar was traded in Tehran at 142 tomans and the mark was being traded at around 84 tomans. At the same time a rumor was being circulated in Tehran that the regime intends to change the Iranian currency while devaluating the official exchange rate of the rial. As a result of these rumors being circulated in Tehran, it is being said that officials of the Central Bank intend to replace the rial and the toman with a new currency which, apparently, has been named "nur" [light, lustre, brightness].

*European Banks To Provide Commercial Loan

90AS0094A London KEYHAN in Persian
24 May 90 p 4

[Text] An appraising consortium composed of several banks and financial institutions from England, France, Germany, and several other western countries, will provide the Islamic Republic with a large commercial loan in the near future. European financial sources estimate the size of the loan to be around two billion dollars. The news regarding the possibility of granting the two billion dollar loan by European banks to the Islamic Republic, which was recently published in the London daily THE GUARDIAN, has given credence to rumors regarding the behind-the-scenes activities of the regime's leadership to establish close ties with the West and, especially, expand relations with member countries of the European Community. At the same time, the British and Irish media printed the reports of the meetings between representatives of the Islamic Republic with economic officials of the European Community which took place in the capital of Ireland, Dublin. This meeting—which, according to the European press, was requested by the Islamic Republic's Ministry of Foreign Affairs—will facilitate the expansion of political, economic, and trade ties between Tehran and most Western countries, including the United States of America and England. In reporting the news of the meeting between representatives of the Islamic Republic and executives of the European Economic Community in Dublin, The BBC radio and television network also reported: "During the meeting between representatives of the Islamic regime of Tehran and economic executives of the Common Market in Dublin various ways for improvement of ties between Iran and members of the European Community was the subject of discussions and exchange of views."

This news network added: "Several weeks ago officials of the Islamic Republic had asked the officials of the European Economic Council for this meeting and the ensuing discussions. Such a request is indicative of the Islamic Republic's desire to take on a suitable role, as a country, in international activities."

In connection with the Islamic Republic's efforts to forge closer ties with the West, [?Hirst], the political commentator of THE GUARDIAN daily, in an article titled "Iran and the United States Resolve Their Financial Disputes Resulting from the Revolution" wrote: "The Islamic Republic and the United States signed the agreement for settling small financial disputes amounting to 105 million dollars. According to this agreement, about 3000 U.S. entities recover their loses which had occurred at the time of the Islamic revolution in Iran."

This newspaper added: "The signing ceremonies were held at the Iran-U.S. claims court in the Hague."

In another part of his report, THE GUARDIAN's commentator wrote: "Neither side agreed to divulge their views connecting [the agreement] with the freedom of hostages."

*Members of Freedom Movement Reportedly Wounded

90AS0094C London KEYHAN in Persian
24 May 90 pp 1, 8

[Text] Publication of the open letter of Engineer Mehdi Bazargan and 89 of his associates in Tehran resulted in the anger of the leaders of the Islamic Republic regime and prompted them to display harsh reaction against the signatories of this letter. Reports from Tehran indicate that, during the past week, several signatories of this protest letter were attacked and assaulted by the hezbollah agents connected to the regime.

According to these reports, Hashem Sabbaghian, the former interior minister in Engineer Bazargan's provisional government, was assaulted and badly beaten in front of his house in Tehran.

Some news sources outside the country reported that several signatories of the said letter have been arrested and indicted. However, reports of these arrests have not yet been confirmed.

In a speech to the political deputies of provincial governorate generals on the Sunday of this week (20 May), Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the signatories of this letter, which was addressed to him, as political destitutes who are void of any position to show off. He called deviation from the current political agenda of the regime and acceptance of suggestions mentioned in this letter for improving the distressed condition of the country as impossible and said: "These people must know that the spirit of the line of national political movements is the same as the one drawn by Imam Khomeyni and His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, and the Muslim people." Rafsanjani added: "Of course they can—by reforming themselves and gaining the confidence of the people, the leadership, and executives of the regime—serve the people. No one will turn down the assistance of those who really intend to serve."

The daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI called for severe punishment of the 90 signatories of the open letter protesting the condition of the country. This newspaper referred to the protesting liberals as the lackeys of foreigners who are bent on the downfall of the Islamic regime. This newspaper accused several members of the Freedom Movement of meeting recently with two members of the American Congress in which they exchanged views on the ways for overthrowing the regime.

The Open Letter

The open letter of the 90 individuals, which has been referred to as the open letter of "a number of Iranian freedom-seekers" addressed to "the president of the Islamic Republic" has mentioned various aspects of the chaotic condition of the country [including] social, economic, intellectual, and executive freedom and security, expression, national independence, safeguard and reconstruction and, finally, from the point of view of international relations and foreign policy. [This letter] reveals a grim picture of the internal conditions of the country.

In the letter of the 90 individuals it has been emphasized that, "in the 12th spring of the revolution freedom, satisfaction, and deliverance are missing. Politically and economically we are more dependent and our hands are tied more than ever before."

The signatories of this letter, which include 14 former ministers of the provisional government of Engineer Bazargan and several military officers, have said in their letter that the people of Iran would like to know who are the ones who have wasted vast national assets including 170 billion dollars in oil income and why the per capita income of the people, in fixed rate, has been reduced to less than half of what it was in the year 1356 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979].

In this letter, references have been made to the decline of freedom and security; the spread of immorality, corruption, and thievery; the prevailing coercion and oppression of the society; monopoly by the clergy; economic bankruptcy and political isolation as a result of the rule of the regime of the Islamic Republic. In conclusion, it has been requested that Rafsanjani, expeditiously and sincerely act as follows:

- Refrain from wrongdoings, destructions, and entering into treaties with foreigners which result in captivity.
- Returning to the people their legal rights.
- Permit and ensure the security of political parties.

Regarding the letter of the 90 individuals opposing the Islamic regime, the Parisian daily LE MONDE wrote: "One year after the death of Khomeyni, in an atmosphere of complete imbalance, the ruling class in Tehran have brought their differences into the open. Under these conditions the liberal opposition, which had maintained silence, has decided to take advantage of the situation."

*People Resist Islamic Dress Regulations

90AS0094B London KEYHAN in Persian
24 May 90 pp 1, 9

[Text] The people's resistance before committee guards and agents of the Moral Enforcement Bureau forced the Islamic Republic regime to retreat. Severe enforcement of these regulations which began on Thursday 25 April was halted around the end of last week and conditions in Tehran streets returned to normal.

Sheykh Mohammad Nuri, the interior minister, speaking in a meeting with the deputy ministers of all the ministries, announced the regime's retreat in the enforcement of the dress code in the streets, pedestrian areas, parks, and public areas, and emphasized that this phase of the enforcement of the moral codes will be the third phase of implementation, after the said regulations are enforced in offices, governmental ministries, and the private sector's centers. After the completion of this phase, the code will be enforced in public areas, parks, and mountain areas and he emphasized that, "If we do otherwise the job will not be done."

Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi said: It has been determined that in this phase the work shall begin at the level of governmental organizations. In the second phase private sector centers such as movie theaters, boutiques, shops, and private companies will be targeted and, finally, in the last phase parks, mountains, and other public centers.

Passengers of Government Service Cars

On Sunday [20 May], the interior minister announced the transfer of the scene of enforcing moral codes from the streets and public places to governmental ministries and warned passengers of government service cars that if they do not adhere to Islamic codes while traveling in service cars, their automobile will be impounded by Committee agents.

Naive Friends and Cunning Foes

On the same day, in a meeting with political deputies of the provincial Governorate Generals, Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the dangers that may result from naive friends and cunning foes for the plan to fight "social corruption" and warned them to refrain from sacrilegious acts and to respect the people's dignity.

Rafsanjani said: It is possible that naive and extremist friends, with their excessiveness and sacrilegious activities give the struggle a bad image. Therefore, executive forces must implement this plan with a regulated, moderate, logical, legal, and Islamic manner and by utilizing cultural tools. They must have respect for the lives and possessions of individuals and make sure that their rights are not violated.

The Issue of Ties, Psychedelic Eyeglasses, and Shoes

According to the directive for the implementation of the new regulation for combating "social corruption" which was issued on 4 May, even wearing regular ties and bow-ties in hotels and motels has been forbidden for the owners and employees of such establishments.

The text of this directive is as follows:

1. All professions which are, in one way or another, involved in the sale of women's undergarments are forbidden to display such items in showcases and in public view.

2. The manufacture and offering of cat-shaped eyeglasses, thin stockings, lighted shoes, pictures of movie stars and foreign and local singers, and undistinguished signs and insignia are forbidden.

3. Owners of businesses and their employees are not permitted to wear ties and bow-ties, especially in lodging establishments.

*Illegal Payments to Deputies Reported

90AS0094I London KEYHAN in Persian 24 May 90 p 2

[Text] The illegal payments made to many of the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Majles were not limited to this year alone. These large sums which were paid this year also for various reasons, such as as Nowruz [new year] bonuses, to members of the Islamic Majles have been made since the first year of the coming to power of the Islamic Republic, and have never had any legal justification. The daily RESALAT first reported on these illegal payments in an editorial which was printed last week.

RESALAT, which for the first time revealed this illegal act, also disclosed that this past new year, Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat, the deputy speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles, paid up to five million rials to some Majles deputies. RESALAT had questioned sheykh Mehdi Karrubi, the majles speaker, about the authorization for such payments, which had never been disclosed.

After the publication of the said editorial, 143 members of the Islamic Consultative Majles, who had been angered by the revelation of this matter, published a letter in which those running RESALAT newspaper were called spiteful and deceived. In order to exonerate Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat, the deputies confessed in their letter to the fact that the payment of money to members of the Islamic Consultative Majles has been going on for the past 10 years.

The deputies have confessed in their editorial [letter] that:

"This trend was set at the time of the first Majles under the then speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and has not been limited only to the present leadership of the Majles."

The 143 members of the Islamic Consultative Majles did not elaborate about the legal authorization for such payments.

Pakistan

Spokesman on Declaration of Kashmir Independence

BK2006030290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 June 90

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said that Pakistan scrupulously adheres to UN resolutions on the settlement of the Kashmir dispute and that any declaration that is inconsistent with this established fact cannot be treated as valid. He was responding to questions in Islamabad yesterday about the news item concerning the establishment of a provisional government for Jammu and Kashmir.

The spokesman said the UN resolutions were clearly and unambiguously based on the right of people of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination. He said a constitutionally elected government exists in Azad Kashmir until a neutral and free plebiscite is held to allow the people of Jammu and Kashmir to opt [for accession] to either Pakistan or India. The spokesman said that future of Jammu and Kashmir will have to be settled through the exercise of right of self-determination by its people. He said Pakistan will continue to provide moral, political, and diplomatic support to the just struggle of the people of Kashmir to achieve this right.

Karachi Curfew To Be Lifted 20 Jun

BK2006003490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1912 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Karachi, June 19 (AFP)—A curfew is to be lifted Wednesday [20 June] in Karachi, 24 days after it was imposed to quell ethnic clashes, Sindh province authorities announced Tuesday [19 June]. The curfew, which has remained in force with daily breaks in more than half of Pakistan's largest city since May 28, will be lifted at 6:00 A.M. (0100 GMT), an official announcement said. It added that the situation had improved in the areas worst hit by clashes between ethnic Sindhis and the

Urdu-speaking settlers who came to Sindh after the 1947 partition of the subcontinent.

Hyderabad, the other major Sindh city, was relieved of curfew restrictions last week.

Troops, deployed in the two cities to control ethnic violence, are to continue their role in maintaining law and order, the announcement said. More than 300 people died, according to an unofficial count, in the ethnic violence which erupted on May 14. Nearly 6,000 have been detained in Southern Province as part of a drive by security forces to restore order.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan Receives Turkey's Celebi

TA1906142590 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] State Minister Isin Celebi, who is in Pakistan, has been received by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. They discussed the protocol signed in Islamabad yesterday by Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan at the end of the ministerial meeting of ECO, the Economic Cooperation Organization.

During the meeting, Celebi briefed the Pakistani president on economic developments in Turkey.

Iran's Velayati Continues Visit, Discussions

Meets With Ishaq Khan

LD1906165390 Tehran IRNA in English 1318 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Islamabad, June 19, IRNA—Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan today called for expansion of cooperation among member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), which groups his country with the Islamic Republic and Turkey.

In a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is in Islamabad for the ECO ministerial meet, President Ishaq Khan hailed the Islamic Republic's stand on problems facing the Muslim world.

On the issue of Afghanistan, he spoke of the plan to hold elections in that county which he said meets the viewpoints of Mujahidin groups based in Iran and allows women the right to vote. Velayati briefed the Pakistani president on Iran's efforts to bring Afghan groups closer, and said Mujahidin leaders based in Iran and Pakistan were currently holding talks in Peshawar to finalize a comprehensive election plan.

The foreign minister also announced Tehran's readiness for promotion of trilateral cooperation with Islamabad and Ankara, saying "we see the current conditions very suitable for upgrading ECO and regarding this we are ready for any sort of cooperation."

On Kashmir, Ties With Saudis, Iraq

LD1906200190 Tehran IRNA in English 1849 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Islamabad, June 19, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told a press conference here Tuesday [19 June] that Iran will do its best to prevent a clash between Pakistan and India over the Kashmir issue. "The Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned over the fate of all world Muslims and cannot be indifferent," Velayati said.

In relation to Saudi Arabia, Velayati said "We have had direct and indirect talks with Saudi Arabia but no result has been achieved yet."

"However," he added, "we consider the Hajj Pilgrimage more than a mere religious ritual and believe that during the Hajj Muslims should raise the problems facing the Islamic world and find a solution to them."

Iran and Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic relations in 1987 after the Mecca massacre by the Saudis. Since then Iran has been banning the Hajj in protest to the quota restrictions imposed by Riyadh on Pilgrims.

Velayati is here to participate in a foreign ministerial session of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) which groups Iran, Pakistan and Turkey.

On the Iran-Iraq peace talks, he said "we believe that any direct or indirect talks should be held within the context of Resolution 598."

Converting to the issue of Afghanistan Velayati pledged Iran's support for any attempt at forming a popular, independant and Islamic system of government in Kabul. He said that Iran was the only Islamic country to seriously care about the vital role of Afghan Mujahidin in the future of their country. The foreign minister also said that Iran enjoyed close relations with both the Iran-based and Pakistan-based Afghan guerrilla groups fighting the Kabul regime.

Discusses Kashmir, Afghanistan

BK2006041190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Iran says it supports a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue through dialogue. Addressing members of the Council of World Affairs in Islamabad, the Iranian foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, said that Iran's support was based on principles. He said Iran felt concerned at the plight and prosecution of Muslims anywhere in the world.

On Afghanistan, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati said his country followed its consistent policy on the issue. He said Iran would not hold talk with Najibullah for settlement of the issue. He said on the Afghan issue the views of Pakistan and Iran were alike.

Sri Lanka

Defense Ministry Issues Communique on Fighting

BK1906113990 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] The cease-fire which came into effect at 1800 [1230 GMT] on Saturday, the 16th, was violated several times by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. A communique issued by the Ministry of Defense said it was expected that during the period of the cease-fire, injured security personnel could be provided relief. However, attacks by the LTTE prevented the security forces from performing relief measures. In Batticaloa, an offer to assist and bringing relief to injured personnel in Kiran by a religious dignitary was prevented by LTTE road blocks.

The communique said that since the cease-fire has been violated by the LTTE, security forces are taking all action to restore law and order in the affected areas. Sole authority has been delegated to area commanders to act resolutely against terrorist attempts to sabotage government installations such as electricity supplies and communications. The government is acting to maintain services essential to the life of the community, especially the supply and distribution of food. In re-establishing law and order in the affected areas, security forces are taking all possible precautions to safeguard the civilian population. They have reported incidents of civilians being used as human shields by the terrorists.

In the Amparai District, the LTTE on Sunday [17 June] fired mortars and small arms at the army camp at Malwatte. This attack was repulsed. In the Batticaloa District, the Kiran army camp was attacked with rockets, mortars, and small arms. For the first time, chemical bombs were lobbed at the Kiran camp, causing severe physical irritation. No loss of life was reported. In addition, during the period of the cease-fire, a 30-meter bridge at Kalawanchikudy was destroyed. In the Trincomalee District, mortar fire was directed at the Muttur-Kuchchaveli and Uppuveli camps. The communique further said that in the Vavuniya District, a helicopter which was roving to evacuate seriously-injured soldiers was fired on at Mankulam. In the Jaffna District, the Palali base camp and the Jaffna fort camp have been fired on with mortars and small arms. Preparations for war such as the building of bunkers and strengthening of positions was observed around the Jaffna fort. It added that the security forces secured the town of Trincomalee and are seeking out terrorists in the vicinity. In the Batticaloa sector, security forces have advanced from Ponnani toward Valaichchenai, while another brigade is moving from Maha Oya toward Chenkaladi. In the south of Batticaloa District, troops are advancing toward Kalawanchikudy. The town of Batticaloa is in the process of being consolidated and it is expected to be secured early.

More on Communique

BK1906134690 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan security forces advanced on several fronts in the north and east in the 24 hours ending at noon today. A Defense Ministry communique says that the advancing forces met some resistance from several (?ambushing) LTTE terrorists. There are (?various) tactics adopted by the terrorists to provoke action against civilians.

In the eastern province of Kalmunai, terrorists set fire to the police station, which has been taken over by them one day earlier. In Kalmunai town, it was reported that LTTE cadres wearing white caps, generally worn by Muslim men, were loading [word indistinct] articles from government establishments and extorting money from businessmen.

The Sri Lankan security forces have secured Kalawanchikudy. In the south of Pottuvil, the patrol task force has attacked and destroyed the LTTE hideout around (Pamana). Heavy LTTE losses are reported. At (Ettema North) in Amparai, 75 Muslim civilians who had been abducted by the LTTE have been freed by the security forces. It was reported that the Batticaloa railway station has been mined by the LTTE with an aim of disrupting the communication system. Kiran, where security forces are under attack by the LTTE cadres, is now within reach of the security forces. Law and order will be restored in Kiran shortly.

In the Vavuniya District, Dayakaran, the LTTE leader for Vavuniya, has been reported killed. At Mankulam, a predawn raid by LTTE terrorists was repulsed with heavy losses to the LTTE.

In the Jaffna District, the fort, which has been under siege for the last seven days, came under heavy mortar attack. Firing of mortars has been from the premises of the public library, which is situated about 300 yards away from the fort on the northern side. Firing has also commenced from the southern side by LTTE terrorists occupying the [name indistinct] Pannai police quarters. Return fire from the security forces within the fort supported by helicopters has repulsed the dawn attack on the fort.

In KKS [Kankesanthurai], an Army detachment located in the harbor has been attacked with mortars and small arms from the cement factory premises and (Havavi) hotel, which have been taken over by the LTTE.

Groups Condemn LTTE for Massacre in India

BK2006064090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0606 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 20 (AFP)—Two Tamil groups Wednesday [20 June] condemned Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil Tigers for the massacre of 13 top members of a rival Tamil group in southern India. Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) Secretary General Kandiah Padmanabha, 39, and 12 other colleagues were shot dead in the port city of Madras by five or six gunmen.

The People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOT) and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) in separate statements blamed the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the killings.

"We call upon all the people to condemn the LTTE's fascist action," PLOT leader Dharmalingam Siddharthan said, and added: "We hope that at least now the Tamil speaking world will realise the true nature of the Tigers."

TELO Secretary General G. Karunakaran, MP, added: "The terrorist LTTE has struck again at its democratic opponents."

"There is no option for the Tamil speaking people now at this critical juncture," he said. "Our people have to be liberated from the criminal clutches of the terrorist LTTE."

The Sri Lanka Moslem Congress (SLMC) also asked the Indian Government to shoulder the responsibility for Mr. Padmanabha's killing, and asked Tamil groups in the island to unite.

Mr. Padmanabha, one of the longest surviving Tamil guerrilla leaders, founded the EPRLF in October 1981, following a split in the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS). A resident of Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula, he was actively involved in student politics in the 1970's and went to London in 1976 to pursue higher studies where he joined the EROS. In the late '70's, Mr. Padmanabha was among the first Sri Lankan Tamils to go to Lebanon and take military training from Palestinian guerrillas.

The EPRLF was among the major Tamil groups which accepted the July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka accord that sought to end Tamil separatism. The LTTE rejected the accord, under which Indian troops were deployed in the island's Tamil-majority northeastern province, and later polls that saw the EPRLF elected to govern the region.

Mr. Padmanbha escaped to India ahead of the Indian troop withdrawal in March, and was said to be living in New Delhi before reaching Madras on Monday [18 June] where he was gunned down.

The PLOT statement said: "He was invited by the Indian Government to stay in their country in view of his personal safety. It is deplorable that the Indian Government or the people have been unable to save him."

Rebels Attack Army Camps, Take Key Towns

BK2006072090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0704 GMT 20 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 20 (AFP)—Tamil separatist rebels Wednesday [20 June] continued to pound two major army camps in Sri Lanka's north, but fighting had subsided in the island's Eastern Province, military officials and Tamil sources said.

Rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were maintaining constant fire on army camps in the Jaffna Fort and the nearby Palaly Air Base, but fatalities were not known, a defence spokesman here said. "They are firing virtually everything," said the spokesman, adding that the Palaly base was under an unrelenting barrage of machinegun fire, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades. He said the troops were returning the fire, and Air Force jets were hitting rebel positions.

The spokesman said heavily-armed LTTE guerrillas, mostly in their teens, were trying to break into the Portuguese-built Jaffna Fort since a ceasefire on Saturday [16 June] shattered within 24 hours. "They are using bulldozers to break into it," he said, and added that a young LTTE boy strapped with explosives had tried to scale the fort wall with a rope ladder but was shot dead. At least four soldiers in the Jaffna Fort have been injured, he said.

The spokesman could not say if the fighting, which erupted June 11 after the LTTE overran several police stations and seized hundreds of policemen, was raging elsewhere in the north. But fighting between government forces and the guerrillas had subsided in the Eastern Province, though the LTTE continued to control a few areas and was resisting elsewhere. The spokesman said government troops now controlled all the three major towns of Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Ampara on the east and were moving out to destroy LTTE hideouts.

The spokesman said retreating LTTE guerrillas attacked an army camp north of Trincomalee town late Tuesday [19 June], but were beaten back. He could not say if there were any casualties.

Residents in Batticaloa town, some 300 Kilometers (186 miles) from here, said that life was limping back to normalcy though shops were still closed and there was no sign of either the guerrillas or troops.

"Some people are now on the streets," a resident said over the telephone. "And we haven't heard any shelling for a long time."

But military sources said the LTTE was still controlling Moslem-majority Kalmunai town, where rebels reportedly torched several shops in the main market after looting them.

The LTTE could not be reached in Batticaloa or Kalmunai for comments.

Hundreds of people, mainly Tamils, who had moved into schools, churches and Hindu temples in Ampara and Batticaloa were yet to return home, residents said.

In Colombo, a Tamil political party Wednesday extended support to the government in the current military campaign against the LTTE which has claimed nearly 1,000 lives so far.

The Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) said in a statement that it was "convinced that (it is) our bounden duty to oppose the fascist terror unleashed by the LTTE on the people and the government of our country."

"It has brutally betrayed the president and the government who honestly trusted it in their sincere search for peace and harmony," it added, referring to the LTTE's peace talks with Colombo since April 1989.

"This war waged by the LTTE is against the country and the interests of the Tamil-speaking people," it added. Tamils are the majority ethnic group in the north and east but are outnumbered by the Sinhalese in the country as a whole.

The TELO was once a powerful Tamil guerrilla group before it was almost decimated by the LTTE in bloody internecine battles in April-May 1986 in which its leader Sri Sabaratnam died with nearly 250 other members.